MARVEL MASTERWORKS®
THE MIGHTY THOR®
VOLUME 1

IND.
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
83 AUG.
INTRODUCING... THE MIGHTY THOR!
THE MOST EXCITING SUPER-HERO OF ALL TIME!!
BEGIN THE SAGA OF THOR IN THIS ISSUE!

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY Nos. 83-100

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

WITH LARRY LIEBER, JOE SINNOTT & DON HECK

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MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

VOLUME 1

COLLECTING

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY Nos. 83-100

STAN LEE • JACK KIRBY

WITH LARRY LIEBER, JOE SINNOTT & DON HECK

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INTRODUCTION
BY STAN LEE

Hi, Heroes!

Over the years, I've been asked countless questions about the origin of everybody's favorite Asgardian. Researchers have researched diligently for the first issue of *The Mighty Thor*, only to find that the first issue wasn't really the first issue! But, before you go around in circles trying to make sense out of that last statement, allow me to explain…

When Marvel first brought forth upon this planet a new Thunder God conceived in majesty and dedicated to the proposition that not all humble mortals were created to be Thor, we had to figure out what to call our new magazine. The obvious answer would have been to title it *The Mighty Thor*, but that was probably too logical for us Marvel madmen. Besides, we had no idea that it would turn into one of comicdom's biggest hits.

Now it just so happened, way back in those dimly remembered days of the early '60s, that we already had one little magazine called Journey Into Mystery, for which we were seeking a new feature. So, in a burst of typical Marvel-type inspiration, quoth we, "Let's put our new Thor strip into *Journey Into Mystery*—'twill certainly be better than offering the reader a magazine with sixteen blank pages!"

And so was born another magnificently meritorious modern-day myth from the mildly maniacal minions at Marvel!

But whence came the notion of making a super hero out of the Norse God of Thunder? I thought you'd never ask!

It happened when I was a guest on a New York radio talk show. The interviewer kept referring to our colorful costumed cavorters as our generation's new mythology. Then, when he asked what new creation we were preparing to unleash upon the defenseless reading public, it all came together! Enter the world of myth. Come up with a god!

Next came the hard part. What god would we select? I recalled studying tales of Roman gods and Greek gods, but there hadn't been as much attention paid to the Norse gods, whom I felt were possibly the most dramatic of all. So, when I re-read the saga of Thor, God of Thunder, and his mighty hammer, I knew I had found our next super hero!

At the time I was so busy writing the FF, ol' greenskin and the wall-crawler, plus an assortment of the other strips, that I simply couldn't find the time to script ol' Goldilocks' adventures. So I settled for dreaming up the stories and gave the actual scripting assignment to Larry Lieber, one of our bullpen's brightest literary stars. Then, some stories were later scripted by Robert Bernstein, another Marvel mainstay who signed his work R. Berns. But I was so envious of these guys for writing one of my favorite characters that I took over the scripting chores myself starting with Thor's fifteenth story.

As for the artwork, you'll notice that Thor's speech hadn't yet become as stylized, archaic or godlike as it later grew to be. One of the main reasons is the fact that most of the stories took place here on Earth rather than high in the gleaming grandeur of Asgard. In fact, in those first tales we did little more than hint about the fabled realm and the awesome assortment of gods and goddesses that dwelled therein. Most of our concentration was upon the evil Loki and, since I'm basically a romantic at heart, the dramatic relationship between poor Don Blake who couldn't reveal his awesome secret to the girl he loved, and Nurse Jane Foster who was eternally torn between her feelings for the dedicated surgeon and the heroic thunder god who could never be hers!

One thing I've never fully understood about Thor is his name. Oh, I don't mean the name Thor—I'm referring to Don Blake. Having always had a terrible memory, I made life easier for myself by giving most of my characters alliterative names, i.e.: Bruce Banner (the Hulk), Silver Surfer (Norrin Radd), Peter Parker (if you don't know I'm not gonna tell you!), etc. If I could remember either the first or the second name then I had a clue to the other name which began with the same letter! So I'll never know why I didn't call him Don Dickens or Bill Blake! It'll just have to take its place among life's many unsolved mysteries!

Now, splendor and spectacle beyond thy wildest imaginings await thee! On the pages ahead shalt thou find the Stone Men from Saturn, the Evil Executioner, Loki the Devil God, the Tempestuous Tomorrow Man, the Carbon-Copy Man, Sandu the Master of the Supernatural, the Radio-Active Man, the Demon Duplicators, Merlin the Mad, the Lava Man, the Human Cobra and the Hideous Mr. Hyde! All that and more do we offer thee, for thou wert judged by the elders of Asgard and truly I say to thee, thou hast been found most worthy!

So prepare ye now for wonderment without let as ye enter the fabled realm. Of all the delights that await ye, the most welcome wilt surely be the fact that this inane introduction hath finally come to its overdue end!

May Odin gaze upon thy countenance with fondness and favor forevermore!

EXCELSIOR!

1991

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MC
83
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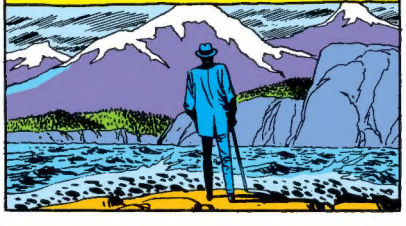
INTRODUCING... THE MIGHTY THOR!
THE MOST EXCITING SUPER-HERO OF ALL TIME!!
BEGIN THE SAGA OF THOR IN THIS ISSUE!

THOR THE MIGHTY!

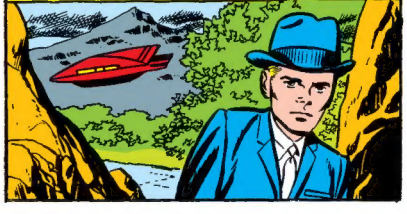
and "THE STONE MEN from SATURN!"

THE LEGEND HAS COME TRUE! BY THE WILL OF THE GODS, I AM ***ALIVE!*** I AM ***INVINCIBLE!*** I AM--***THOR!!!***

OUR STORY OPENS ON THE WINDY COAST OF NORWAY, WHERE WE SEE A FRAIL FIGURE SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE BLEAK SKY! HE IS DR. DON BLAKE, AN AMERICAN VACATIONING IN EUROPE!



AND, AS DOCTOR BLAKE TURNS AND LEAVES THE SITE, HE DOESN'T SEE THE STRANGE ALIEN SPACE-SHIP WHICH SILENTLY LANDS BEHIND HIM!



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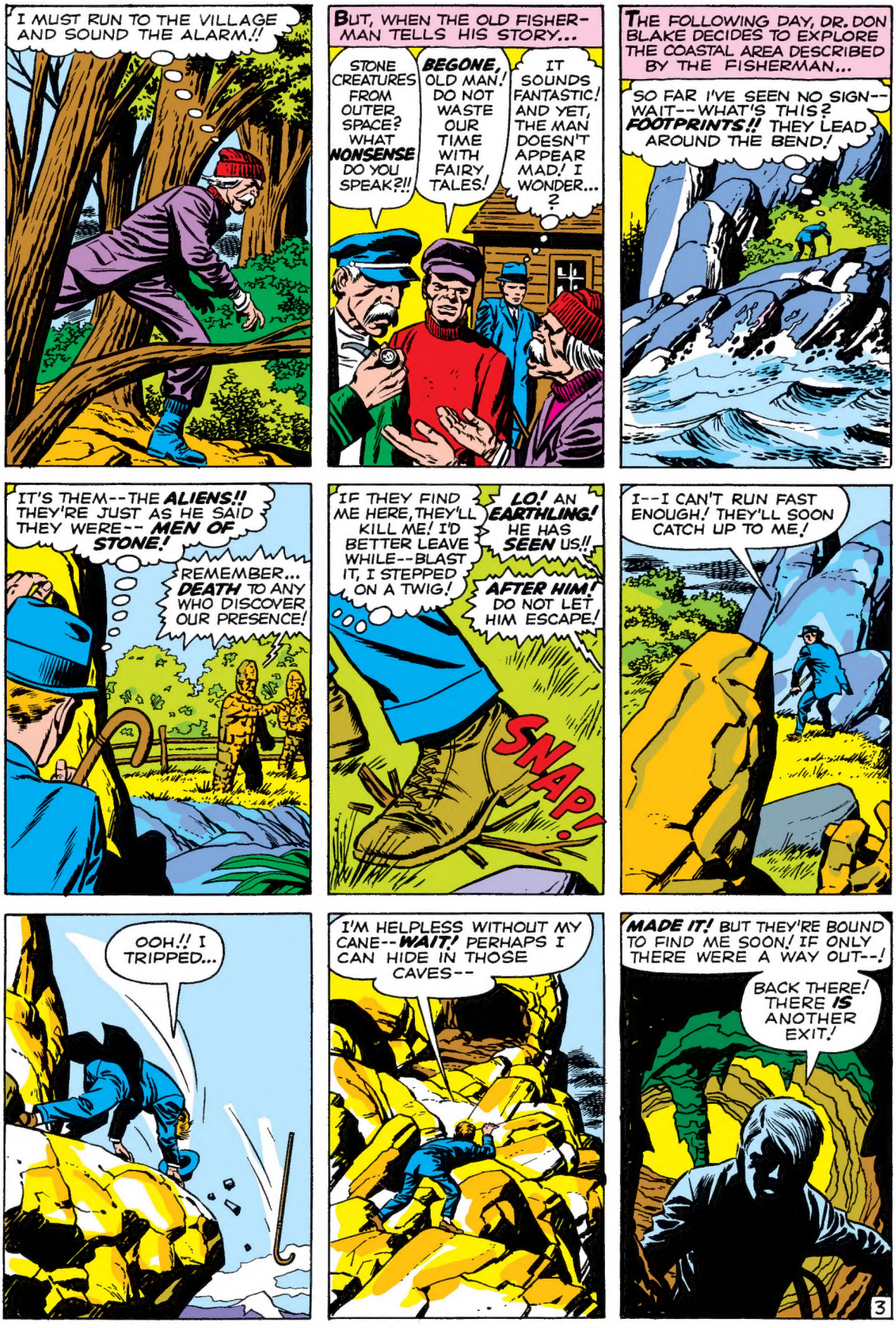
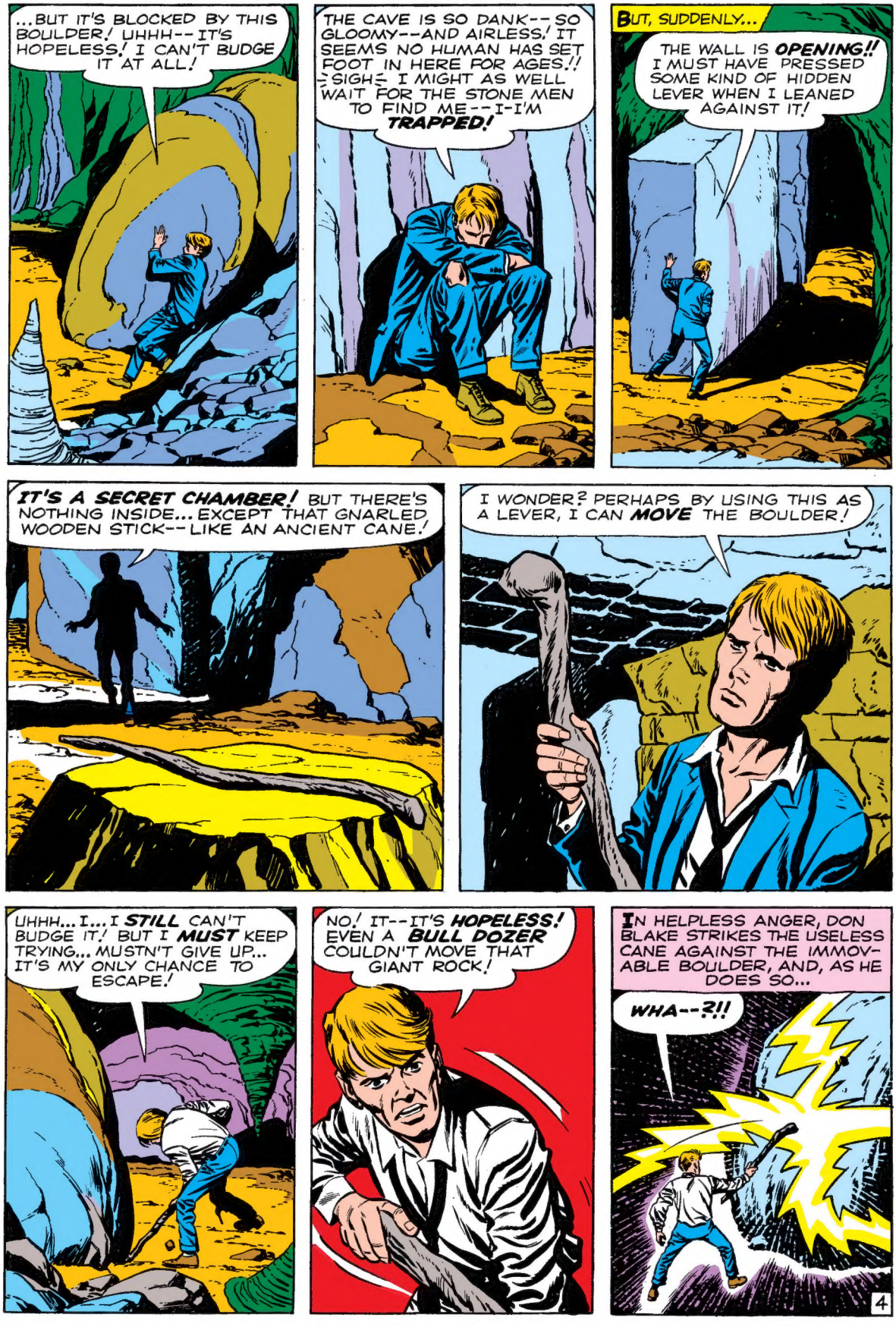
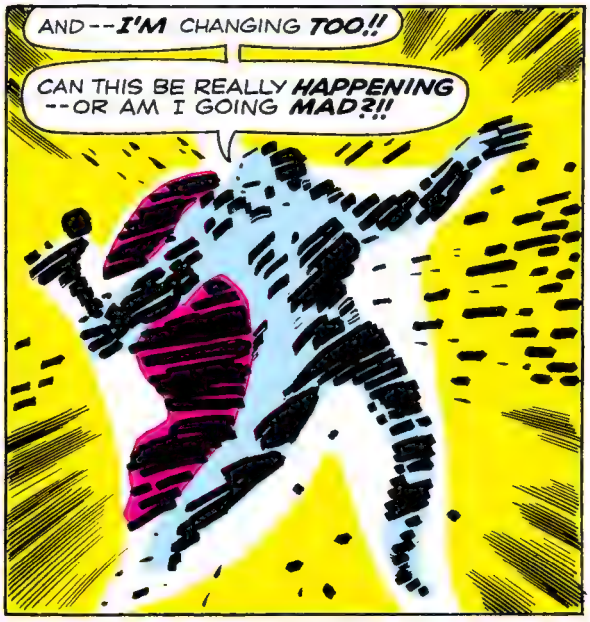
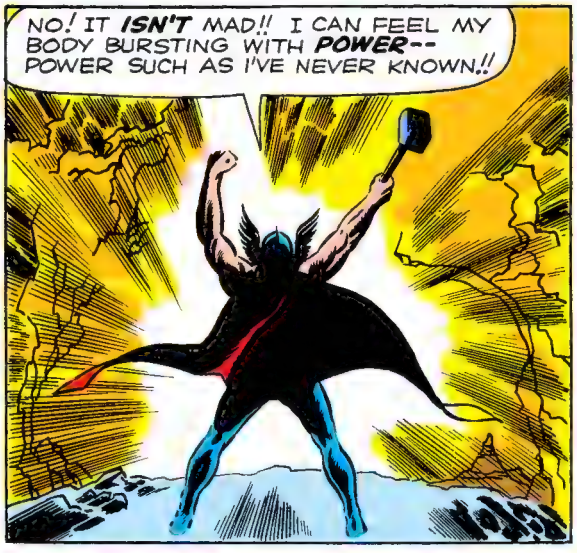
TWO PRINCIPALS IN A GRIM PAGEANT ... NEITHER ONE NOTICING THE OTHER! BUT HOW DIFFERENT WOULD THINGS BE IF THEY WERE TO MEET AT THIS MOMENT! HOW DIFFERENT WOULD BE THE FUTURE OF ALL MANKIND!
BUT OURS IS A DRAMA DECREED BY THE FATES TO BE ACTED OUT! NOTHING CAN STOP IT! NOTHING CAN CHANGE IT! WATCH AND SEE...
AH! AT LAST WE ARE ON EARTH!
THIS ATMOSPHERE--IT IS SO DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN PLANET!
THAT IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE! ON SATURN, WE ARE MIGHTY BEINGS! BUT HERE, IN THIS OXYGEN ATMOSPHERE, OUR STRENGTH IS EVEN GREATER!
BEHOLD HOW EASILY I LIFT THIS PLANT-THING OUT OF THE GROUND!
HAH! WELL DONE, GORR!
NOW WATCH, AS I PROVE THE INVULNERABILITY OF OUR STONE BODIES!
WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST HESITATION, I JUMP...
...FOR I KNOW THAT NOTHING ON THIS PUNY EARTH...
...CAN HARM ME!
BUT, ONE PAIR OF EYES DOES SEE THE AWESOME ALIENS! THE EYES OF AN AGED FISHERMAN!
BY THE BEARD OF ODIN, WHAT HAVE I STUMBLED ONTO?!!
AND IF OUR STRENGTH WERE NOT ENOUGH, WE COULD RELY UPON OUR WEAPONS!
IT WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY TO CONQUER THIS PLANET WHEN OUR MAIN INVASION FORCE ARRIVES!
2

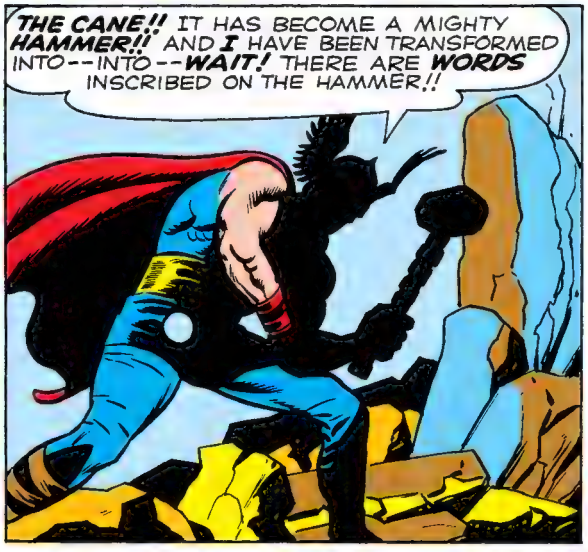

I MUST RUN TO THE VILLAGE AND SOUND THE ALARM!!
BUT, WHEN THE OLD FISHERMAN TELLS HIS STORY...
STONE CREATURES FROM OUTER SPACE? WHAT NONSENSE DO YOU SPEAK?!!
BEGONE, OLD MAN! DO NOT WASTE OUR TIME WITH FAIRY TALES!
IT SOUNDS FANTASTIC! AND YET, THE MAN DOESN'T APPEAR MAD! I WONDER...?
THE FOLLOWING DAY, DR. DON BLAKE DECIDES TO EXPLORE THE COASTAL AREA DESCRIBED BY THE FISHERMAN...
SO FAR I'VE SEEN NO SIGN--WAIT--WHAT'S THIS? FOOTPRINTS!! THEY LEAD AROUND THE BEND!
IT'S THEM--THE ALIENS!! THEY'RE JUST AS HE SAID THEY WERE-- MEN OF STONE!
REMEMBER... DEATH TO ANY WHO DISCOVER OUR PRESENCE!
IF THEY FIND ME HERE, THEY'LL KILL ME! I'D BETTER LEAVE WHILE--BLAST IT, I STEPPED ON A TWIG!
LO! AN EARTHLING! HE HAS SEEN US!!
AFTER HIM! DO NOT LET HIM ESCAPE!
SNAP!
I--I CAN'T RUN FAST ENOUGH! THEY'LL SOON CATCH UP TO ME!
OOH!! I TRIPPED...
I'M HELPLESS WITHOUT MY CANE--WAIT! PERHAPS I CAN HIDE IN THOSE CAVES--
MADE IT! BUT THEY'RE BOUND TO FIND ME SOON! IF ONLY THERE WERE A WAY OUT--!
BACK THERE! THERE IS ANOTHER EXIT!
3


...BUT IT'S BLOCKED BY THIS BOULDER! UHHH--IT'S HOPELESS! I CAN'T BUDGE IT AT ALL!
THE CAVE IS SO DANK--SO GLOOMY--AND AIRLESS! IT SEEMS NO HUMAN HAS SET FOOT IN HERE FOR AGES!! =SIGH= I MIGHT AS WELL WAIT FOR THE STONE MEN TO FIND ME--I-I'M TRAPPED!
BUT, SUDDENLY...
THE WALL IS OPENING!! I MUST HAVE PRESSED SOME KIND OF HIDDEN LEVER WHEN I LEANED AGAINST IT!
IT'S A SECRET CHAMBER! BUT THERE'S NOTHING INSIDE... EXCEPT THAT GNARLED WOODEN STICK--LIKE AN ANCIENT CANE!
I WONDER? PERHAPS BY USING THIS AS A LEVER, I CAN MOVE THE BOULDER!
UHHH... I... I STILL CAN'T BUDGE IT! BUT I MUST KEEP TRYING... MUSTN'T GIVE UP... IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
NO! IT--IT'S HOPELESS! EVEN A BULL DOZER COULDN'T MOVE THAT GIANT ROCK!
IN HELPLESS ANGER, DON BLAKE STRIKES THE USELESS CANE AGAINST THE IMMOVABLE BOULDER, AND, AS HE DOES SO...
WHA--?!!
4

THE CAVE IS BATHED IN BLINDING LIGHT!! LIKE A FIERY BOLT OF LIGHTNING! AND THE ANCIENT CANE--IT--IT'S CHANGING SHAPE!


AND--I'M CHANGING TOO!!
CAN THIS BE REALLY HAPPENING --OR AM I GOING MAD?!!


NO! IT ISN'T MAD!! I CAN FEEL MY BODY BURSTING WITH POWER-- POWER SUCH AS I'VE NEVER KNOWN!!


THE CANE!! IT HAS BECOME A MIGHTY HAMMER!! AND I HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO--INTO--WAIT! THERE ARE WORDS INSCRIBED ON THE HAMMER!!

"WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF... THOR"

THOR!! THE LEGENDARY GOD OF THUNDER!! THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF ALL MYTHOLOGY!! THIS IS HIS HAMMER!! AND I--I AM THOR!!!

A FEW MOMENTS AGO, I COULDN'T EVEN BUDGE THIS BOULDER!
BUT NOW...
PART 2
"the POWER of THOR!
I CAN LIFT IT AS IF IT WERE CARDBOARD!
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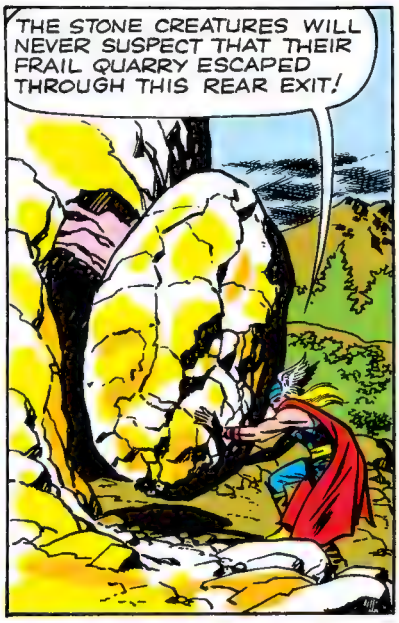
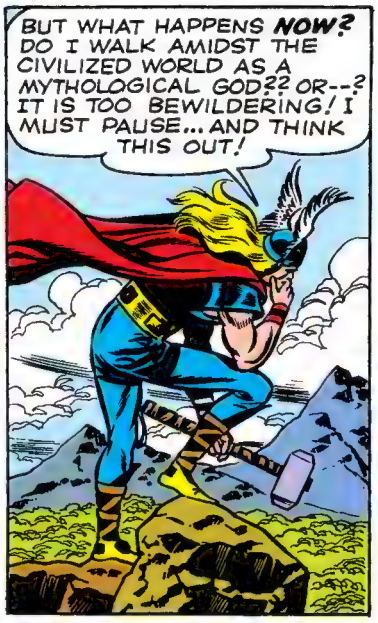
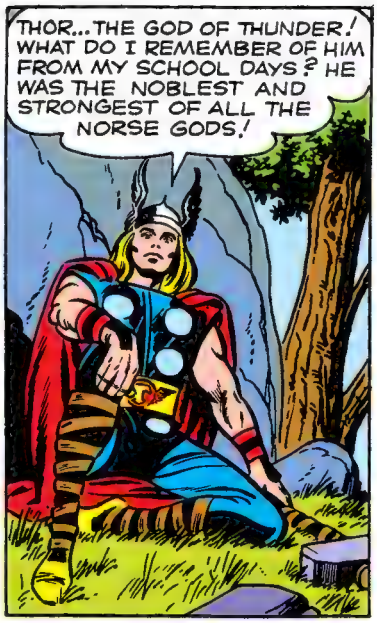
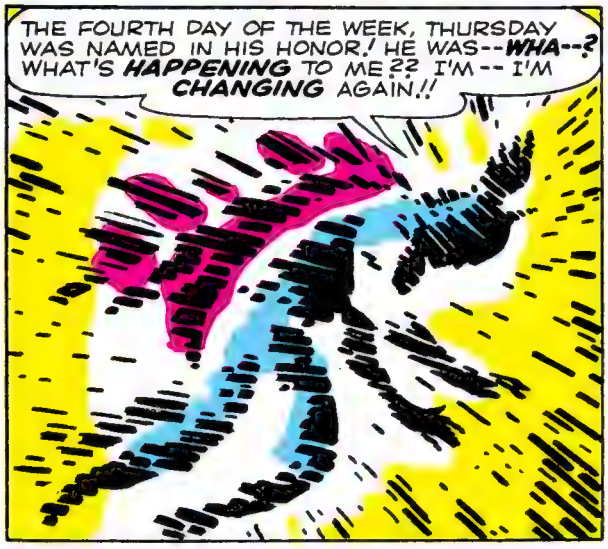

THE STONE CREATURES WILL NEVER SUSPECT THAT THEIR FRAIL QUARRY ESCAPED THROUGH THIS REAR EXIT!

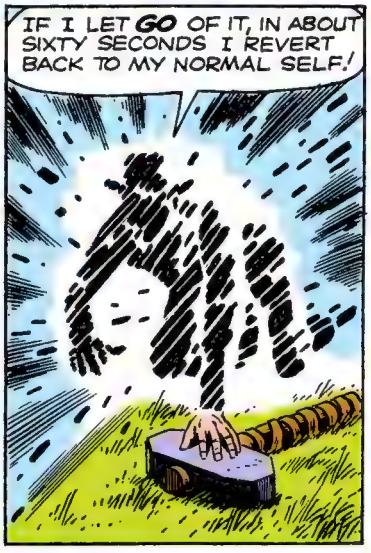

BUT WHAT HAPPENS NOW? DO I WALK AMIDST THE CIVILIZED WORLD AS A MYTHOLOGICAL GOD?? OR--? IT IS TOO BEWILDERING! I MUST PAUSE... AND THINK THIS OUT!

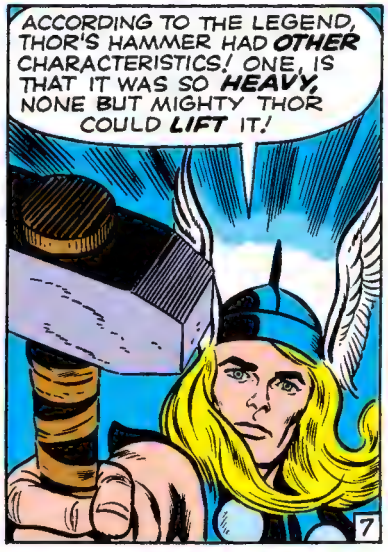

THOR... THE GOD OF THUNDER! WHAT DO I REMEMBER OF HIM FROM MY SCHOOL DAYS? HE WAS THE NOBLEST AND STRONGEST OF ALL THE NORSE GODS!


THE FOURTH DAY OF THE WEEK, THURSDAY WAS NAMED IN HIS HONOR! HE WAS--WHA--? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?? I'M -- I'M CHANGING AGAIN!!

I'M BACK TO NORMAL ONCE MORE! BUT HOW?? WHAT CAUSED IT?? WAIT-- THE INSCRIPTION ON THE HAMMER--

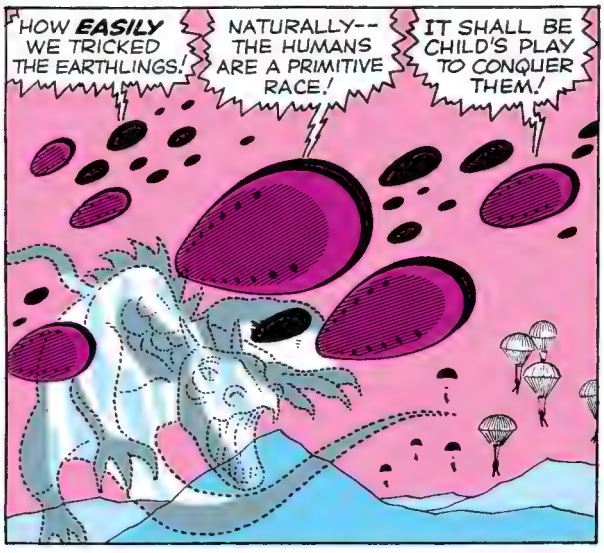
"WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF THOR!"
SO THAT'S IT! I MUST CONTINUALLY HOLD THE HAMMER TO RETAIN THOR'S STRENGTH!

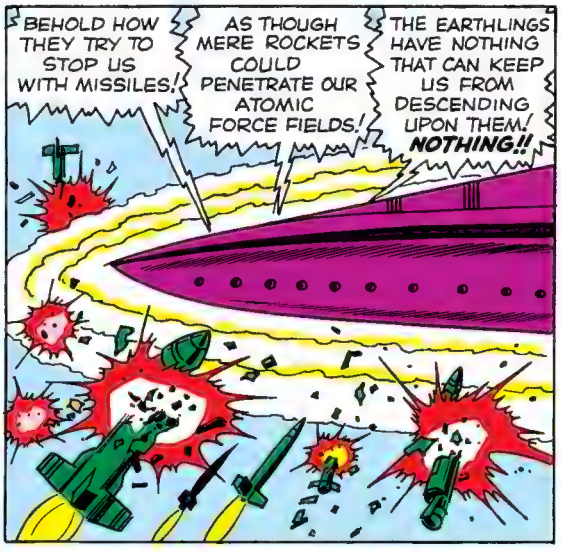

IF I LET GO OF IT, IN ABOUT SIXTY SECONDS I REVERT BACK TO MY NORMAL SELF!

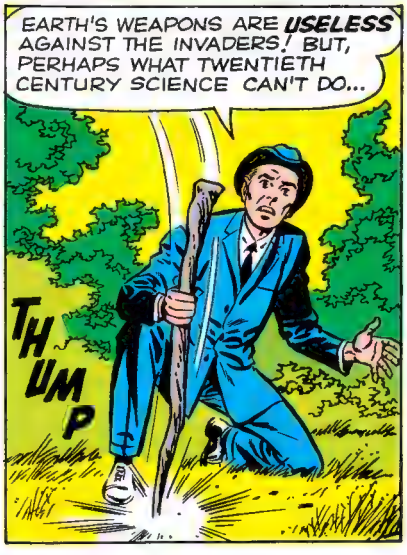

ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, THOR'S HAMMER HAD OTHER CHARACTERISTICS! ONE, IS THAT IT WAS SO HEAVY, NONE BUT MIGHTY THOR COULD LIFT IT!

THE LEGENDS ALSO SAY THAT THE HAMMER IS ENCHANTED! WHENEVER THOR HURLS IT FROM HIM...
...IT MUST RETURN!
ALSO, THE HAMMER IS INVINCIBLE!
NOTHING CAN RESIST IT!
CRASH
NOTHING!!
HIS BLOOD BOILING WITH EXCITEMENT, THE TRANSFORMED DOCTOR CONTINUES TO EXPERIMENT WITH HIS MYSTIC WEAPON...
BY STAMPING THE HANDLE TWICE ON THE GROUND...
THUMP
THUMP
...I CAN CREATE RAIN OR SNOW...
...WHICH SOON GROW INTO A RAGING TORNADO! ALL THE POWER OF THE STORM IS THOR'S TO COMMAND!
BOOM!

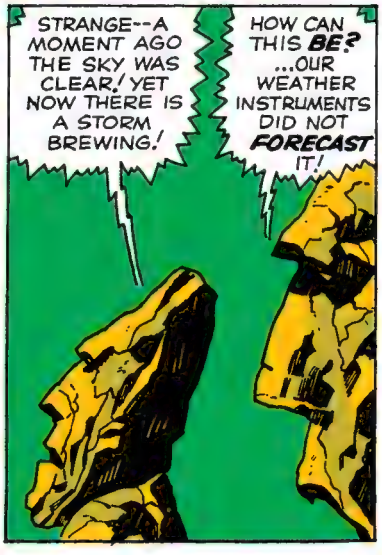
THEN, TO END THE STORM, I MERELY STAMP THIS HANDLE THREE TIMES ON THE GROUND!!!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
BUT, IF I SHOULD STAMP IT BUT ONCE...
THE HAMMER CHANGES BACK INTO A CANE... AND I ONCE AGAIN BECOME DR. DON BLAKE!
TO THINK, THE MOST INCREDIBLE POWER OF ALL TIME HAS BEEN HIDDEN IN THAT CAVE, WAITING TO BE FOUND!! BUT... I'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME! THE WORLD MUST BE WARNED OF THE PRESENCE OF THE STONE MEN!
BUT EVEN AT THAT MOMENT, ON A NATO AIR BASE...
IT'S A FLEET OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS!
ALERT ALL MILITARY UNITS--AND SCRAMBLE THE JETS!
THE HUMANS HAVE SENT UP ARMED AIRCRAFT!
WE SHALL SOON DISPOSE OF THEM! SET UP THE MONSTER-IMAGE!
A MOMENT LATER, A HUGE, THREE-DIMENSIONAL PICTURE FLASHES ACROSS THE SKY!
WHA--? WHAT IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN IS IT??
IT'S HEADING RIGHT FOR US! WE CAN'T BANK IN TIME!!
BAIL OUT!!
HIT THE SILK!!
9

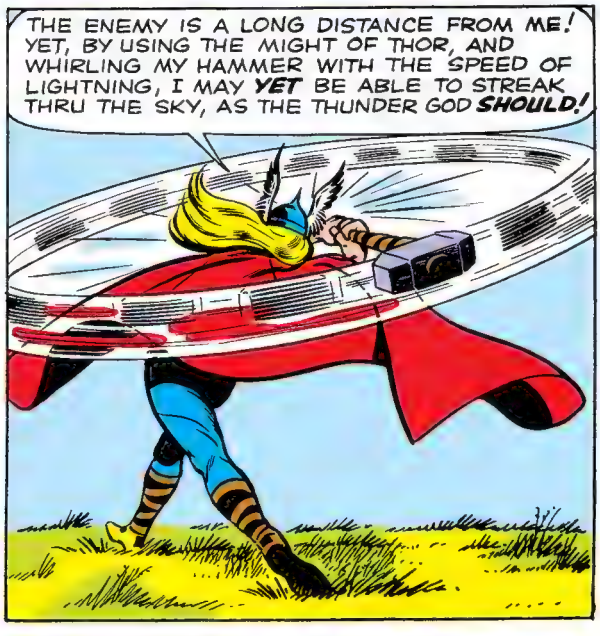

HOW EASILY WE TRICKED THE EARTHLINGS!
NATURALLY-- THE HUMANS ARE A PRIMITIVE RACE!
IT SHALL BE CHILD'S PLAY TO CONQUER THEM!


BEHOLD HOW THEY TRY TO STOP US WITH MISSILES!
AS THOUGH MERE ROCKETS COULD PENETRATE OUR ATOMIC FORCE FIELDS!
THE EARTHLINGS HAVE NOTHING THAT CAN KEEP US FROM DESCENDING UPON THEM! NOTHING!!


EARTH'S WEAPONS ARE USELESS AGAINST THE INVADERS! BUT, PERHAPS WHAT TWENTIETH CENTURY SCIENCE CAN'T DO...
THUMP

...THE GOD OF THUNDER CAN!!

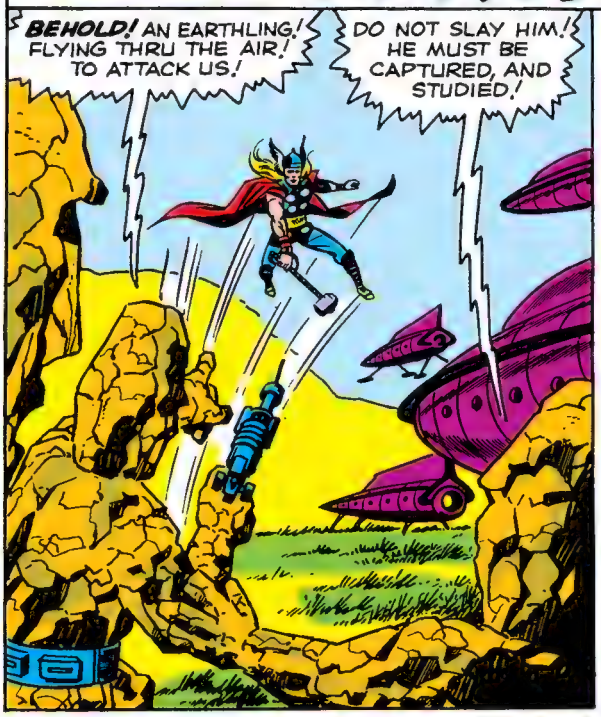

STRANGE--A MOMENT AGO THE SKY WAS CLEAR! YET NOW THERE IS A STORM BREWING!
HOW CAN THIS BE? ...OUR WEATHER INSTRUMENTS DID NOT FORECAST IT!

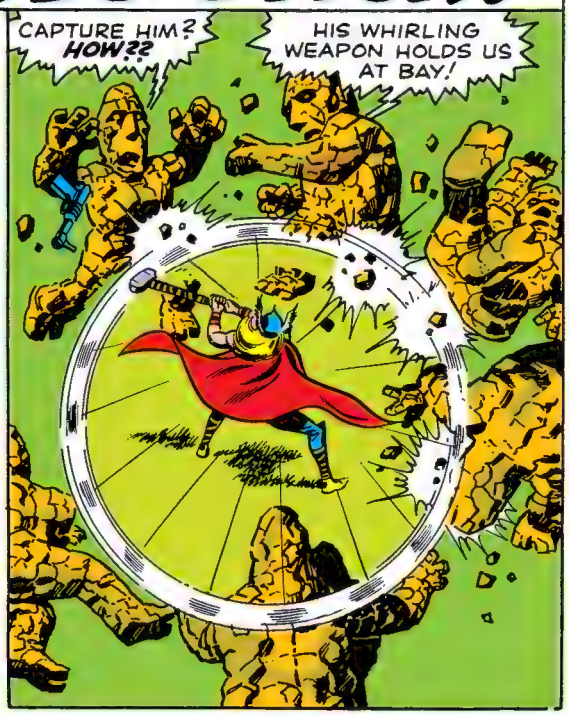

THE ENEMY IS A LONG DISTANCE FROM ME! YET, BY USING THE MIGHT OF THOR, AND WHIRLING MY HAMMER WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING, I MAY YET BE ABLE TO STREAK THRU THE SKY, AS THE THUNDER GOD SHOULD!

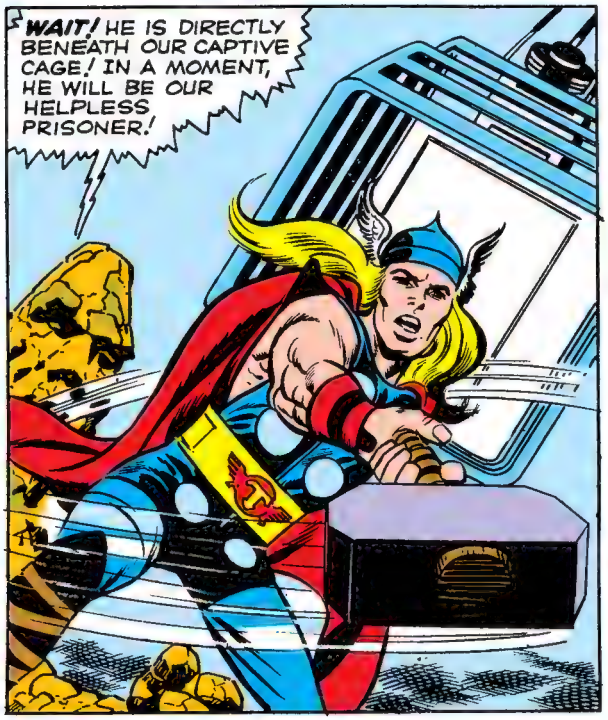
THERE! I RELEASE MY WHIRLING HAMMER FOR A SPLIT-SECOND, CATCHING THE UNBREAKABLE THONG, AND THEN--I AM PULLED ALONG AFTER IT LIKE THE TAIL OF A ROCKET!!

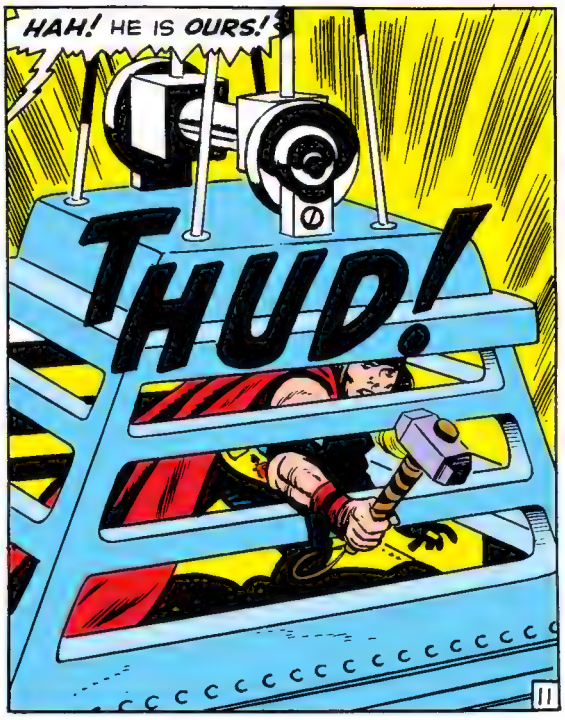
PART 3

THOR THE MIGHTY STRIKES BACK!





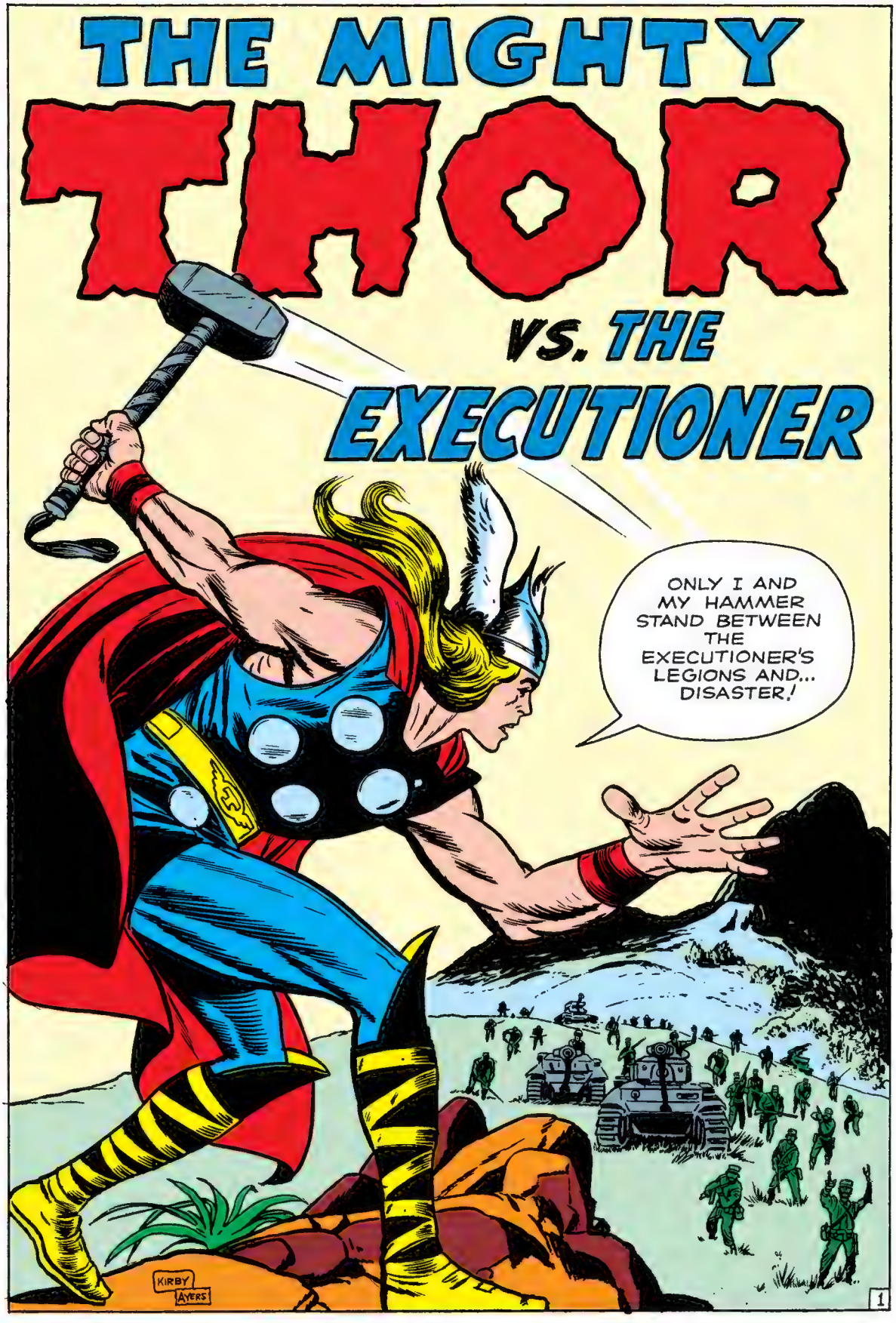




THE EARTHLING IS POWERLESS...
NO! OBSERVE...
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!
IRON BARS DO NOT A PRISON MAKE!
...NOT WHEN THE PRISONER HAS THE MIGHT OF THOR!!
THE EARTHLING IS TOO POWERFUL TO BE CAPTURED ALIVE!
HE MUST BE SLAIN! PREPARE TO DISINTEGRATE HIM!
BUT, BEFORE THE RUTHLESS INVADERS CAN FIRE...
OUR WEAPONS!!
THE EARTHLING CANNOT BE STOPPED!
YES HE CAN! SET THE MECHANO-MONSTER FREE! BE SWIFT!!
IT IS DONE, SIRE! NOW THE ENEMY WILL SURELY MEET HIS MASTER!
THERE IS YOUR FOE!! ATTACK HIM! DESTROY HIM!!
THAT MONSTROSITY LOOKS LIKE IT HAS EVERYTHING IN ITS FAVOR! EVERYTHING, EXCEPT...
12

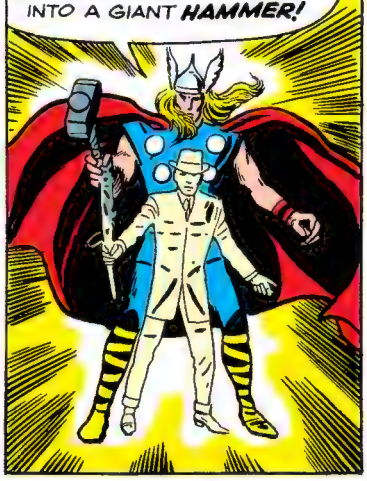
...THE HAMMER OF THOR!
CLANG!
HE HAS VANQUISHED THE MECHANO-MONSTER!
THE HUMAN IS TOO MIGHTY --TOO SKILLED IN THE ART OF BATTLE!
AND WE KNOW NOT HOW MANY MORE THERE ARE LIKE HIM ON EARTH!
BACK!! BACK TO THE SHIPS AT ONCE!! WE MUST FLEE THIS ACCURSED PLANET!!
I'VE BEATEN THEM! I HAVE PROVEN THAT THE POWER OF THE HAMMER AND THE MIGHT OF THE THUNDER-GOD ARE INVINCIBLE! NOTHING CAN CONQUER THOR! NOTHING!!
HERE COMES THE INFANTRY! IF I REMAIN HERE, THEY'LL QUESTION ME!! THEY WON'T REST TILL THEY'VE LEARNED MY SECRET! I'LL BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL CURIOSITY!
BUT, ALL THAT CAN BE AVOIDED BY ONE GESTURE...
THUMP
LOOK! THE INVADERS ARE FLYING AWAY!
BUT WHY?? WHAT COULD HAVE DRIVEN THEM OFF??
I DON'T KNOW! THERE'S NO ONE IN SIGHT...
NAT
NATO
...EXCEPT THAT LAME PASSER-BY, WITH A GNARLED OLD CANE!
WELL, IT'S A CINCH THAT SKINNY GENT ISN'T EARTH'S SECRET WEAPON!
THE MENACE IS ENDED! NOW, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO BACK TO THE STATES... TAKING WITH ME THE GREATEST POWER EVER KNOWN TO MORTAL MAN!
the END
EDITOR'S NOTE: THORR THE MIGHTY, THE GREATEST NEW SUPER-HERO OF ALL TIME, WILL APPEAR REGULARLY IN JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY! RESERVE NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE AT YOUR NEWSDEALER NOW! IT'S SURE TO BE A SELL-OUT!

IND.
12¢
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
MC
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
84 SEPT.
FEATURING: the MIGHTY THOR, CAPTURED BY "THE EXECUTIONER"
HOW CAN I DO WHAT I MUST, WITHOUT REVEALING MY MOST PRECIOUS SECRET??
READY! AIM! FIRE!
NO!! NO!!
IT'S HOPELESS! EVEN THOR CAN'T SAVE ME NOW!

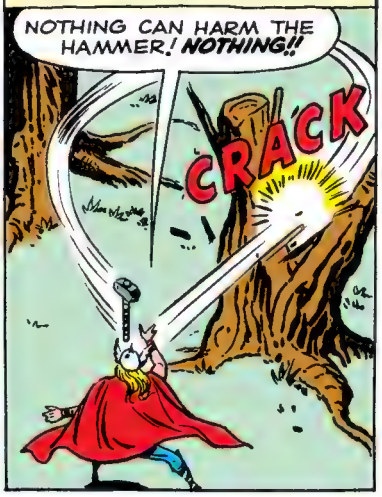

THE MIGHTY
THOR
VS. THE
EXECUTIONER
ONLY I AND MY HAMMER STAND BETWEEN THE EXECUTIONER'S LEGIONS AND... DISASTER!
KIRBY
AYERS
1

INTRODUCTION: IN THE LAST ISSUE OF JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY, WE BROUGHT YOU THE FANTASTIC TALE OF DR. DON BLAKE, A LAME AMERICAN VACATIONING IN NORWAY... WHO DISCOVERED AN ANCIENT CANE IN A REMOTE CAVE...

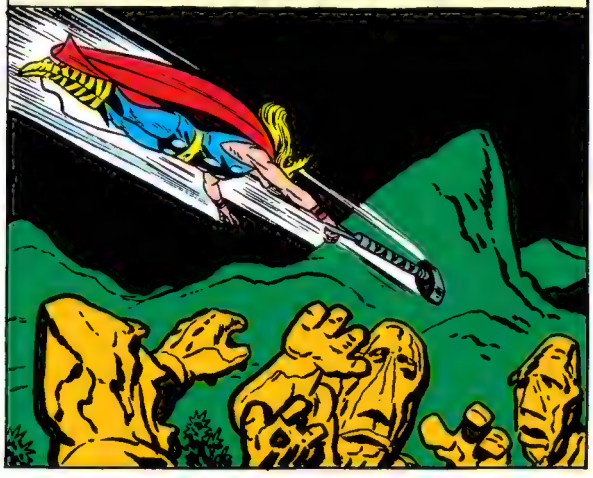
UPON ACCIDENTALLY STRIKING THE CANE, THE LAME PHYSICIAN FOUND HIMSELF CHANGING INTO...



IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE MYTH COME TO LIFE! AND, LIKE IN THE MYTH, THE MIGHTY HAMMER COULD ONLY BE LIFTED BY THOR...AND WHEN IT WAS HURLED, IT ALWAYS RETURNED TO ITS MASTER!

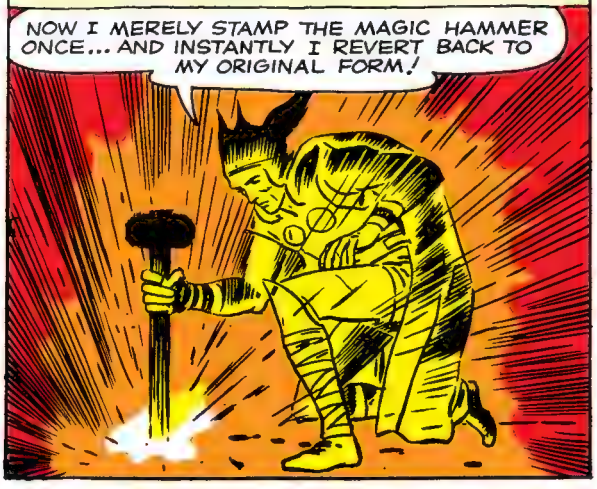


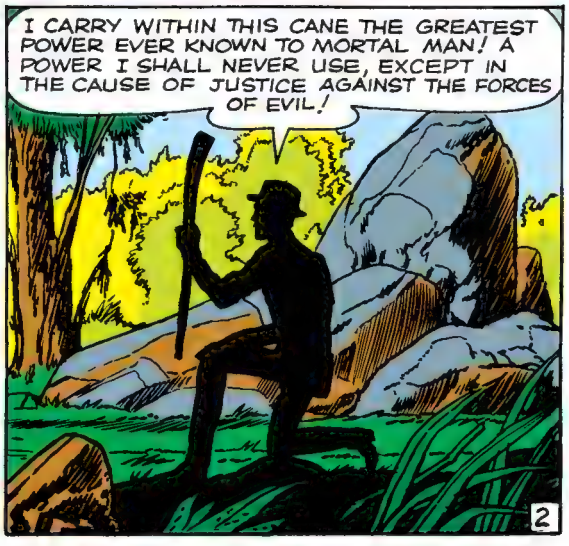
BUT, SCARCELY HAD THOR BEEN BORN, WHEN HE FOUND HIMSELF PITTED AGAINST AN INVASION FORCE OF MENACING STONE MEN FROM SATURN!

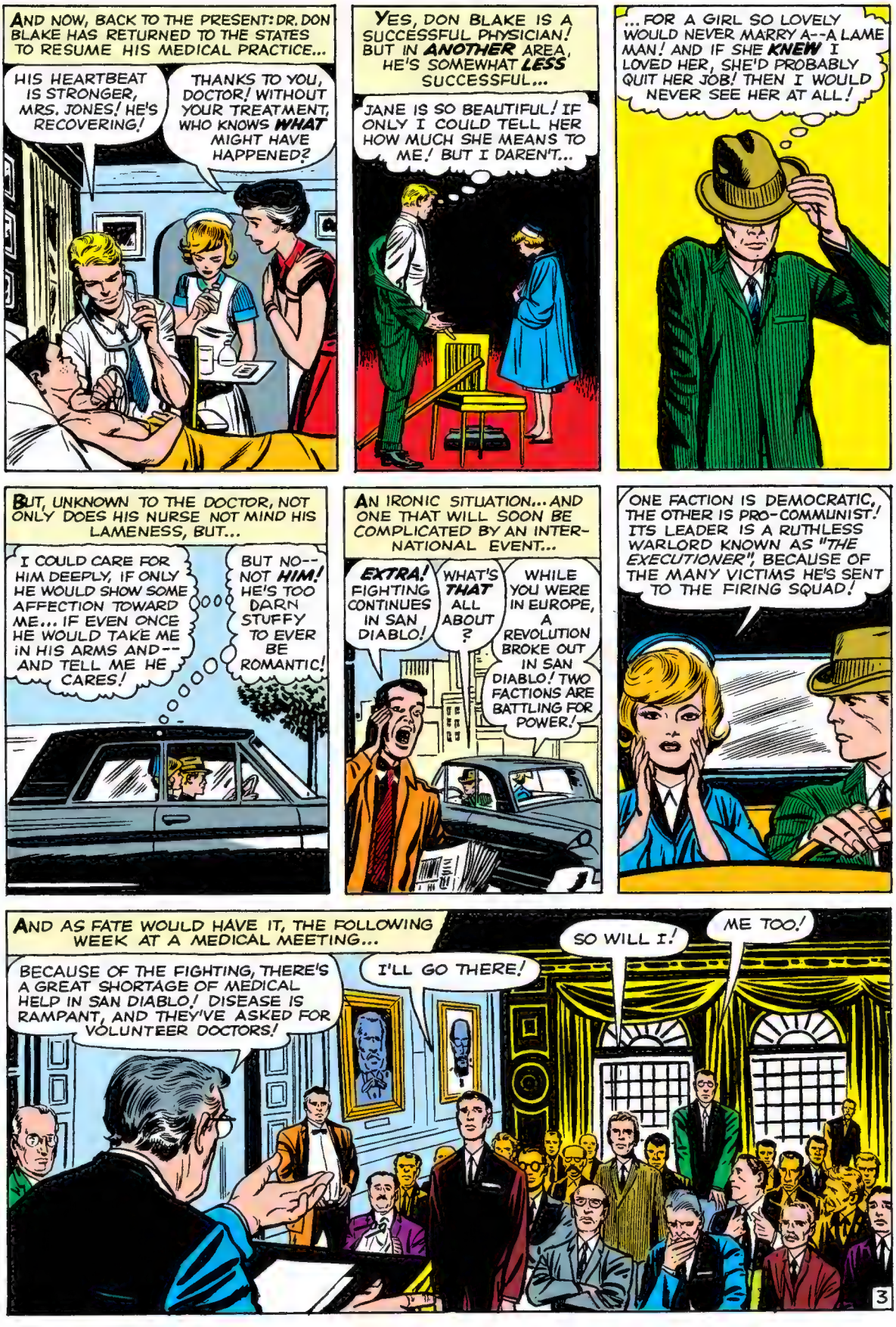


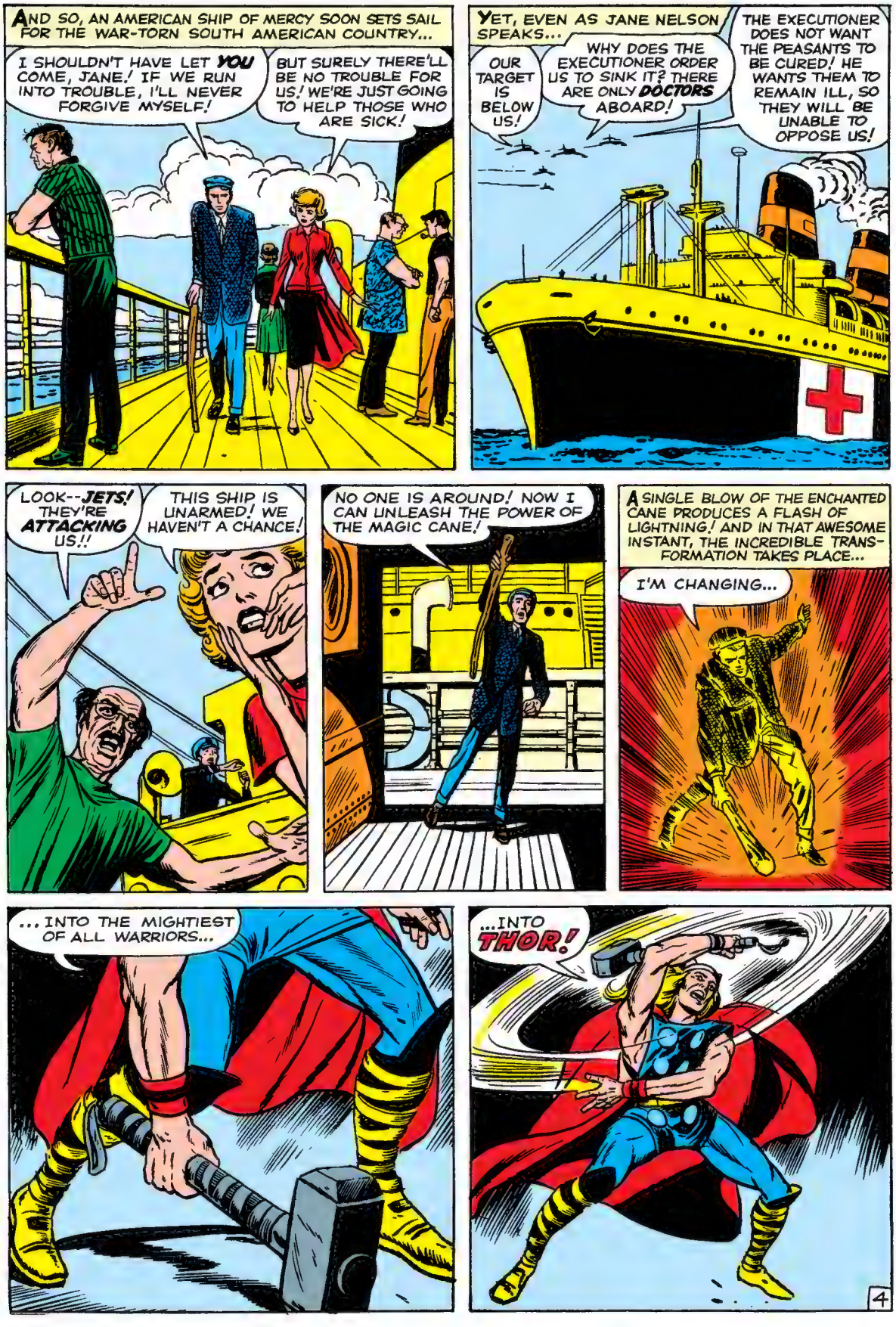
MIGHTY AS THEY WERE, THE STONE MEN COULD NOT MATCH THE POWER OF THE THUNDER-GOD...

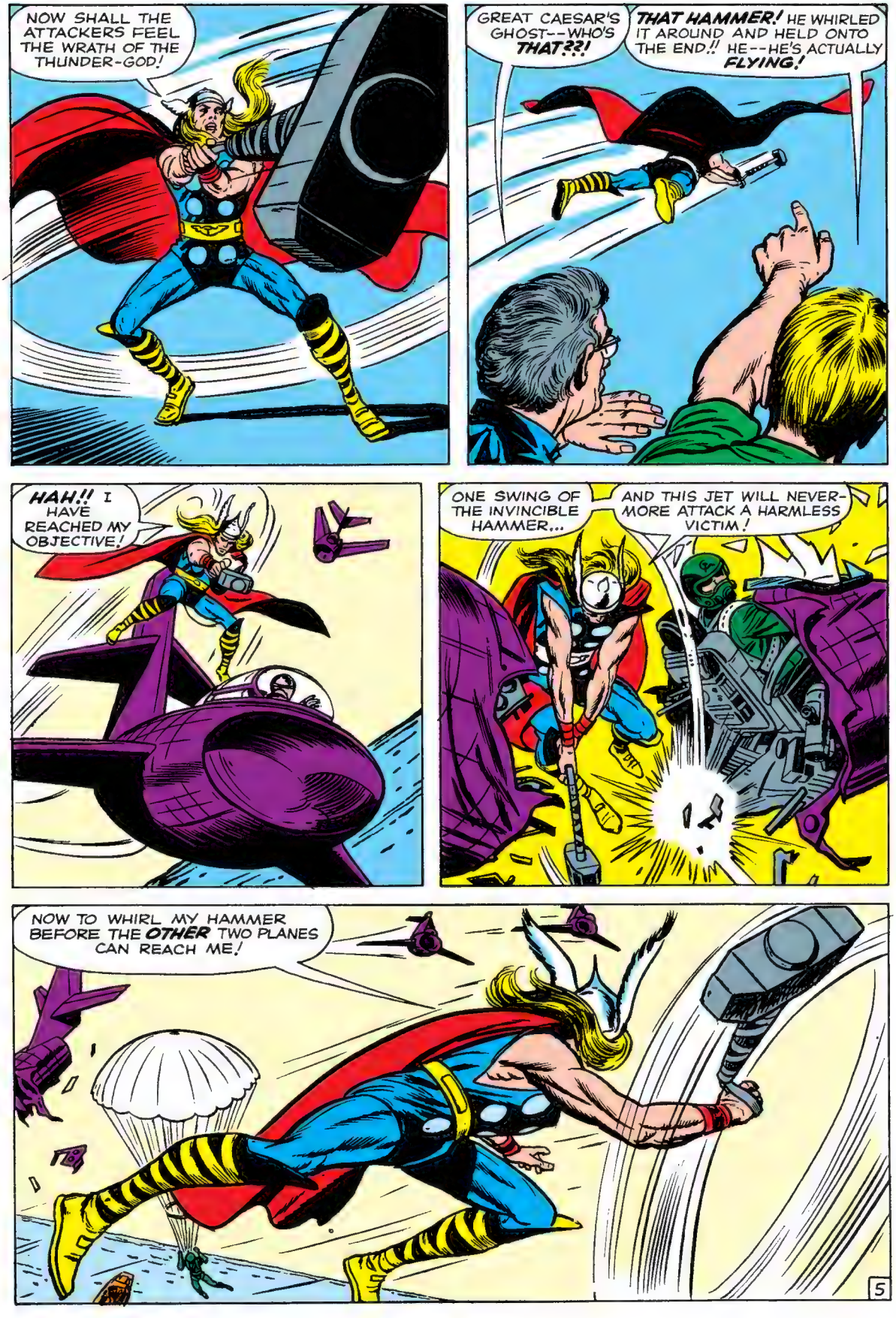
AND FINALLY, IN UTTER DEFEAT, THEY FLED FROM EARTH!

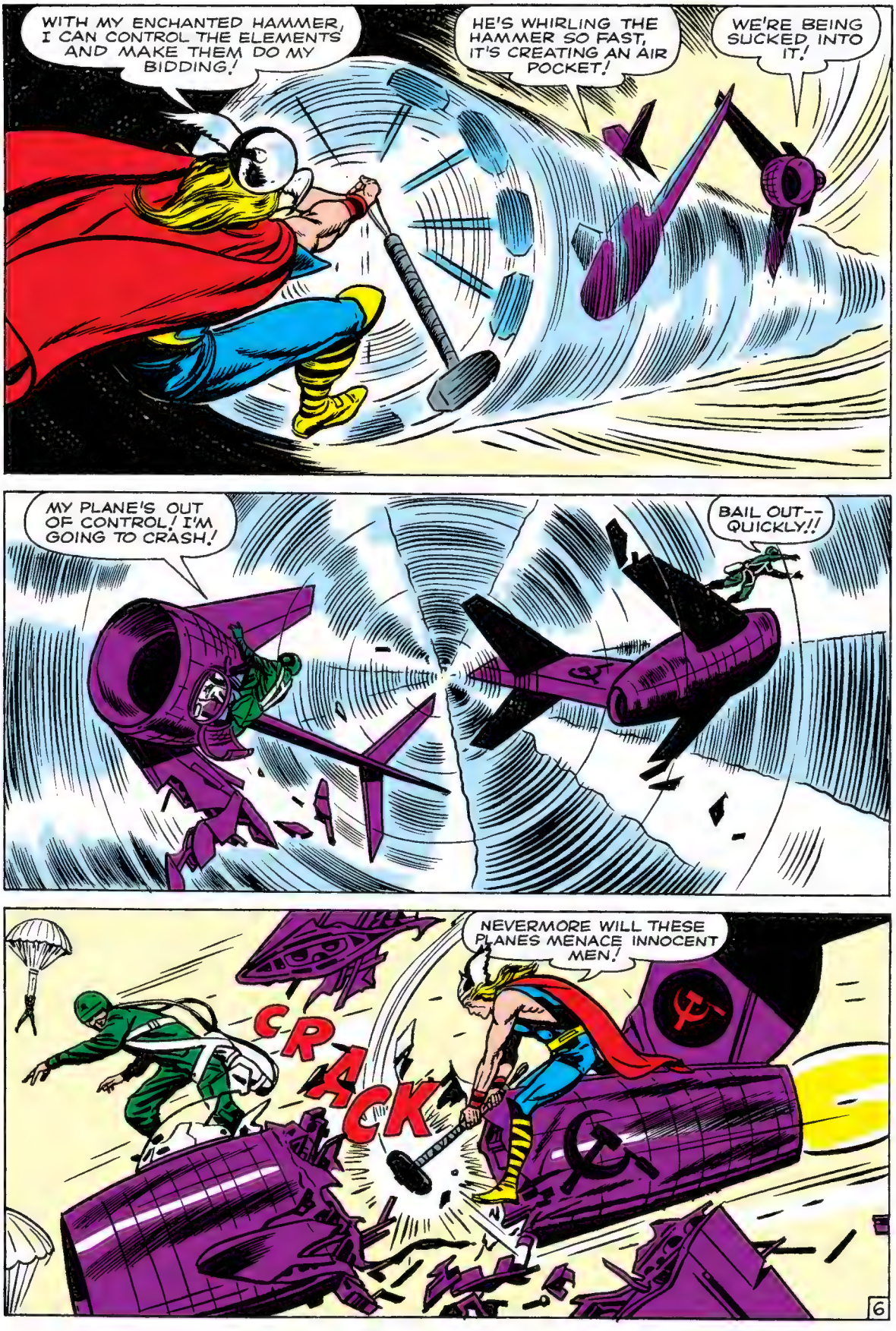


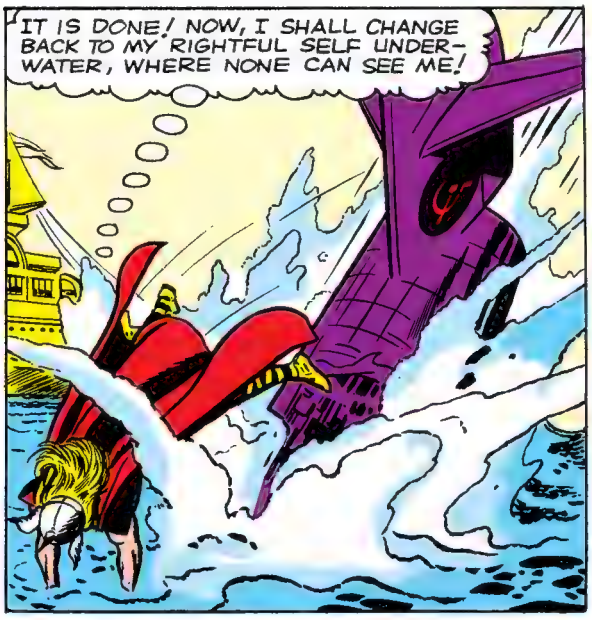

I CARRY WITHIN THIS CANE THE GREATEST POWER EVER KNOWN TO MORTAL MAN! A POWER I SHALL NEVER USE, EXCEPT IN THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL!


AND NOW, BACK TO THE PRESENT: DR. DON BLAKE HAS RETURNED TO THE STATES TO RESUME HIS MEDICAL PRACTICE...
HIS HEARTBEAT IS STRONGER, MRS. JONES! HE'S RECOVERING!
THANKS TO YOU, DOCTOR! WITHOUT YOUR TREATMENT, WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED?
YES, DON BLAKE IS A SUCCESSFUL PHYSICIAN! BUT IN ANOTHER AREA, HE'S SOMEWHAT LESS SUCCESSFUL...
JANE IS SO BEAUTIFUL! IF ONLY I COULD TELL HER HOW MUCH SHE MEANS TO ME! BUT I DAREN'T...
...FOR A GIRL SO LOVELY WOULD NEVER MARRY A--A LAME MAN! AND IF SHE KNEW I LOVED HER, SHE'D PROBABLY QUIT HER JOB! THEN I WOULD NEVER SEE HER AT ALL!
BUT, UNKNOWN TO THE DOCTOR, NOT ONLY DOES HIS NURSE NOT MIND HIS LAMENESS, BUT...
I COULD CARE FOR HIM DEEPLY, IF ONLY HE WOULD SHOW SOME AFFECTION TOWARD ME... IF EVEN ONCE HE WOULD TAKE ME IN HIS ARMS AND--AND TELL ME HE CARES!
BUT NO--NOT HIM! HE'S TOO DARN STUFFY TO EVER BE ROMANTIC!
AN IRONIC SITUATION... AND ONE THAT WILL SOON BE COMPLICATED BY AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT...
EXTRA! FIGHTING CONTINUES IN SAN DIABLO!
WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
WHILE YOU WERE IN EUROPE, A REVOLUTION BROKE OUT IN SAN DIABLO! TWO FACTIONS ARE BATTLING FOR POWER!
ONE FACTION IS DEMOCRATIC, THE OTHER IS PRO-COMMUNIST! ITS LEADER IS A RUTHLESS WARLORD KNOWN AS "THE EXECUTIONER", BECAUSE OF THE MANY VICTIMS HE'S SENT TO THE FIRING SQUAD!
AND AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THE FOLLOWING WEEK AT A MEDICAL MEETING...
BECAUSE OF THE FIGHTING, THERE'S A GREAT SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL HELP IN SAN DIABLO! DISEASE IS RAMPANT, AND THEY'VE ASKED FOR VOLUNTEER DOCTORS!
I'LL GO THERE!
SO WILL I!
ME TOO!
3

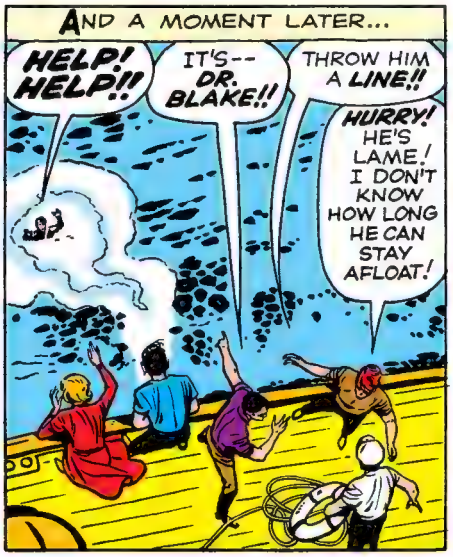

AND SO, AN AMERICAN SHIP OF MERCY SOON SETS SAIL FOR THE WAR-TORN SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU COME, JANE! IF WE RUN INTO TROUBLE, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!
BUT SURELY THERE'LL BE NO TROUBLE FOR US! WE'RE JUST GOING TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE SICK!
YET, EVEN AS JANE NELSON SPEAKS...
OUR TARGET IS BELOW US!
WHY DOES THE EXECUTIONER ORDER US TO SINK IT? THERE ARE ONLY DOCTORS ABOARD!
THE EXECUTIONER DOES NOT WANT THE PEASANTS TO BE CURED! HE WANTS THEM TO REMAIN ILL, SO THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO OPPOSE US!
LOOK--JETS! THEY'RE ATTACKING US!!
THIS SHIP IS UNARMED! WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE!
NO ONE IS AROUND! NOW I CAN UNLEASH THE POWER OF THE MAGIC CANE!
A SINGLE BLOW OF THE ENCHANTED CANE PRODUCES A FLASH OF LIGHTNING! AND IN THAT AWESOME INSTANT, THE INCREDIBLE TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE...
I'M CHANGING...
...INTO THE MIGHTIEST OF ALL WARRIORS...
...INTO THOR!
4

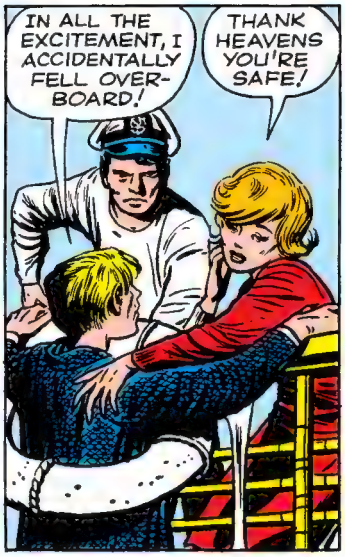

NOW SHALL THE ATTACKERS FEEL THE WRATH OF THE THUNDER-GOD!
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST--WHO'S THAT??!
THAT HAMMER! HE WHIRLED IT AROUND AND HELD ONTO THE END!! HE--HE'S ACTUALLY FLYING!
HAH!! I HAVE REACHED MY OBJECTIVE!
ONE SWING OF THE INVINCIBLE HAMMER...
AND THIS JET WILL NEVER-MORE ATTACK A HARMLESS VICTIM!
NOW TO WHIRL MY HAMMER BEFORE THE OTHER TWO PLANES CAN REACH ME!
5


WITH MY ENCHANTED HAMMER, I CAN CONTROL THE ELEMENTS AND MAKE THEM DO MY BIDDING!
HE'S WHIRLING THE HAMMER SO FAST, IT'S CREATING AN AIR POCKET!
WE'RE BEING SUCKED INTO IT!
MY PLANE'S OUT OF CONTROL! I'M GOING TO CRASH!
BAIL OUT-- QUICKLY!!
NEVERMORE WILL THESE PLANES MENACE INNOCENT MEN!
CRACK
6

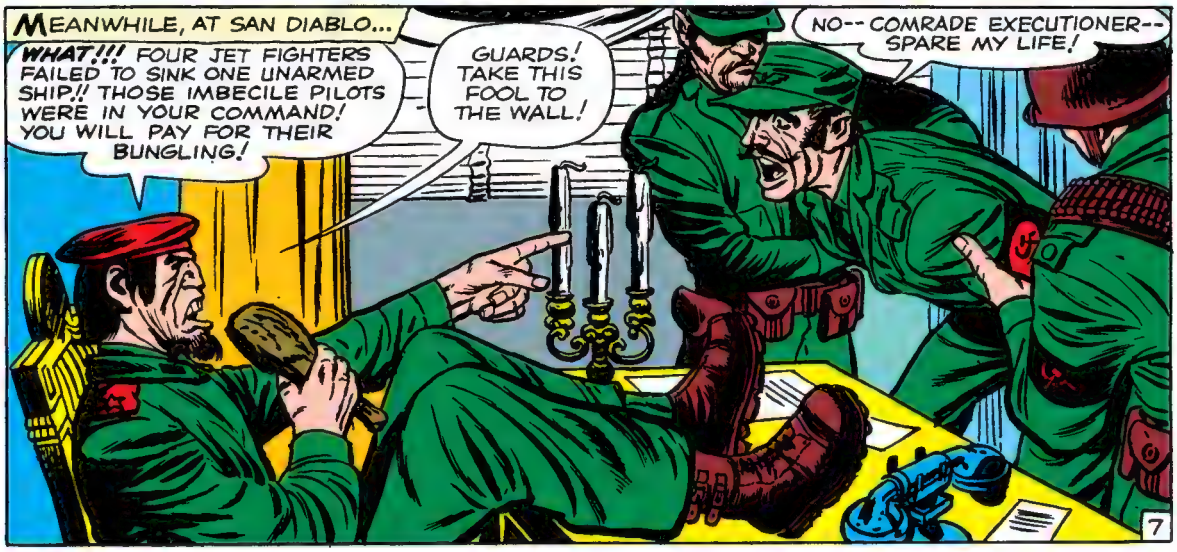

IT IS DONE! NOW, I SHALL CHANGE BACK TO MY RIGHTFUL SELF UNDER-WATER, WHERE NONE CAN SEE ME!

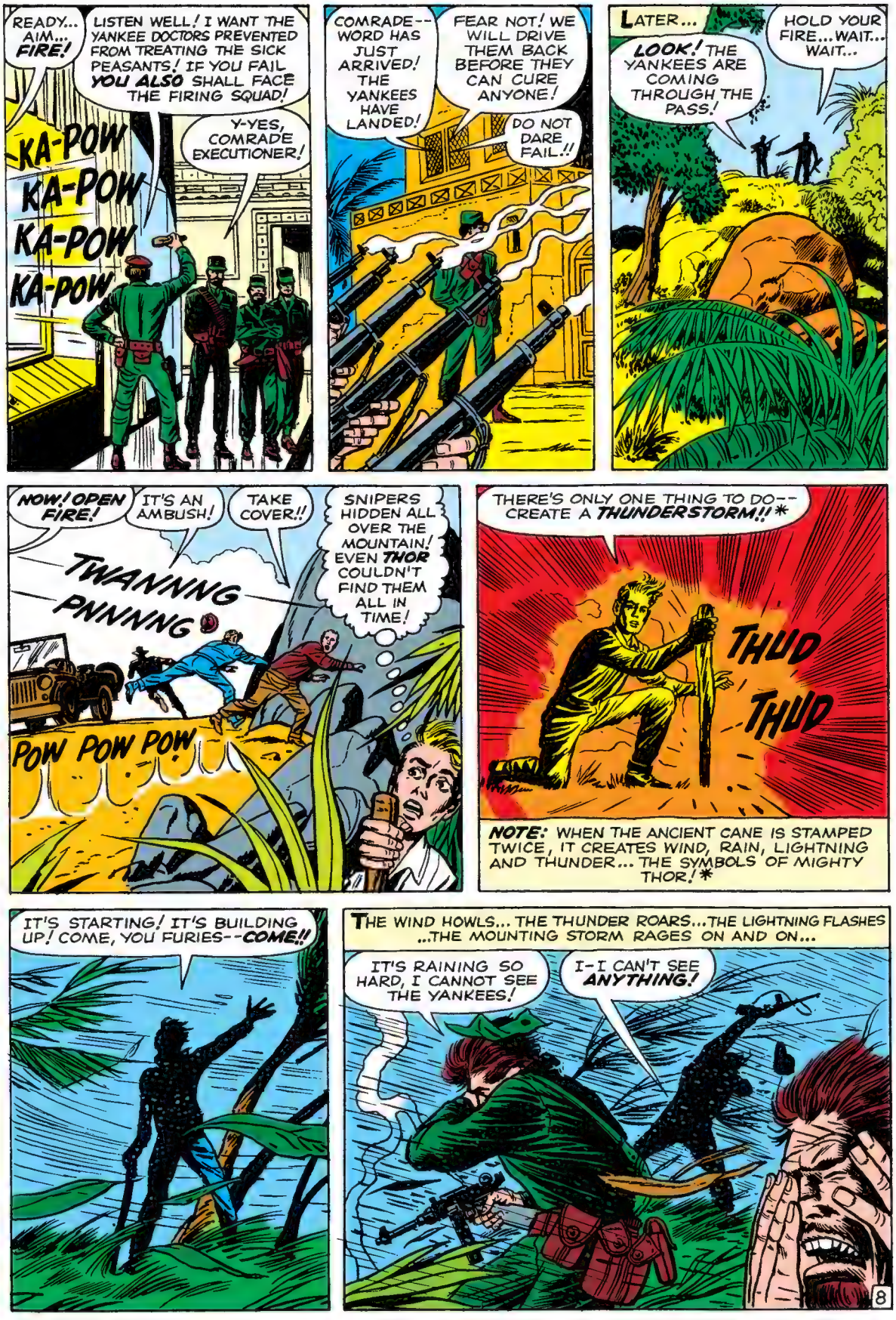
I HAVE BUT TO STAMP THE HAMMER ONCE, AND--
THUMP!


AND A MOMENT LATER...
HELP! HELP!!
IT'S-- DR. BLAKE!!
THROW HIM A LINE!!
HURRY! HE'S LAME! I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG HE CAN STAY AFLOAT!


IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT, I ACCIDENTALLY FELL OVER-BOARD!
THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE SAFE!

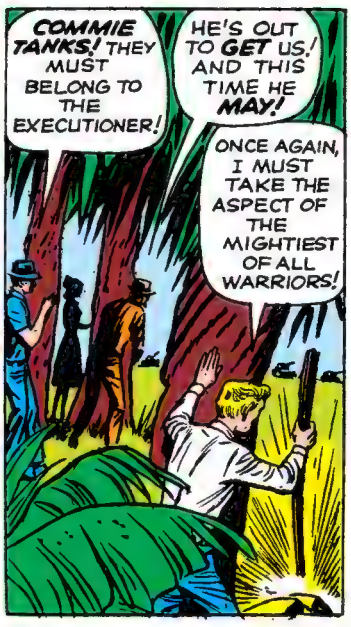
WHAT-- WHAT HAP-PENED TO THE JETS?
IT WAS INCREDIBLE! OUT OF NOWHERE, THERE APPEARED A FIGURE LIKE A LEGENDARY FLYING GOD!
HE WIELDED A MIGHTY HAMMER--JUST LIKE THOR, THE MYTHICAL GOD OF THUNDER!
HE DOWNED ALL FOUR PLANES!
AND HE WAS SO --SO HANDSOME!

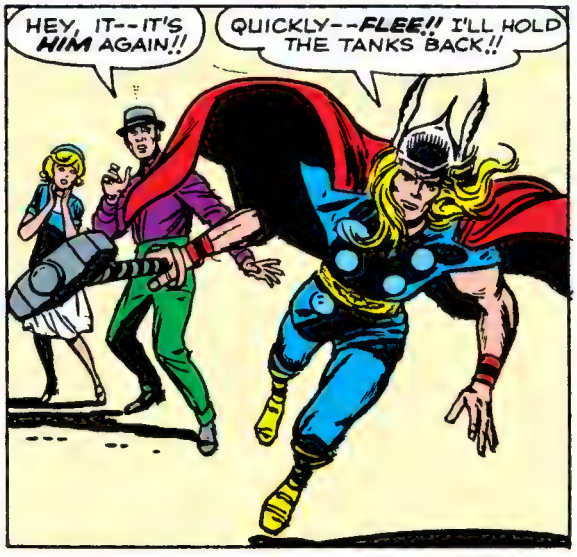

MEANWHILE, AT SAN DIABLO...
WHAT!!! FOUR JET FIGHTERS FAILED TO SINK ONE UNARMED SHIP!! THOSE IMBECILE PILOTS WERE IN YOUR COMMAND! YOU WILL PAY FOR THEIR BUNGLING!
GUARDS! TAKE THIS FOOL TO THE WALL!
NO-- COMRADE EXECUTIONER-- SPARE MY LIFE!

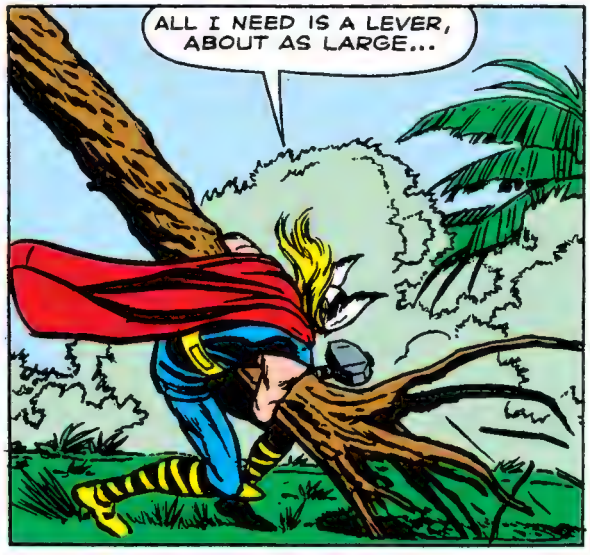

READY... AIM... FIRE!
LISTEN WELL! I WANT THE YANKEE DOCTORS PREVENTED FROM TREATING THE SICK PEASANTS! IF YOU FAIL YOU ALSO SHALL FACE THE FIRING SQUAD!
Y-YES, COMRADE EXECUTIONER!
KA-POW KA-POW KA-POW KA-POW
COMRADE--WORD HAS JUST ARRIVED! THE YANKEES HAVE LANDED!
FEAR NOT! WE WILL DRIVE THEM BACK BEFORE THEY CAN CURE ANYONE!
DO NOT DARE FAIL!!
LATER...
LOOK! THE YANKEES ARE COMING THROUGH THE PASS!
HOLD YOUR FIRE...WAIT... WAIT...
NOW! OPEN FIRE!
IT'S AN AMBUSH!
TAKE COVER!!
SNIPERS HIDDEN ALL OVER THE MOUNTAIN! EVEN THOR COULDN'T FIND THEM ALL IN TIME!
TWANNNG PNNNG
POW POW POW
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO--CREATE A THUNDERSTORM!!*
THUD THUD
NOTE: WHEN THE ANCIENT CANE IS STAMPED TWICE, IT CREATES WIND, RAIN, LIGHTNING AND THUNDER... THE SYMBOLS OF MIGHTY THOR!*
IT'S STARTING! IT'S BUILDING UP! COME, YOU FURIES--COME!!
THE WIND HOWLS... THE THUNDER ROARS...THE LIGHTNING FLASHES ...THE MOUNTING STORM RAGES ON AND ON...
IT'S RAINING SO HARD, I CANNOT SEE THE YANKEES!
I-I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!

ALL THE RAIN IS MAKING THE GROUND SOFT!
THE MUD IS TOO SLIPPERY!
I'M SLIDING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN!! HELP!!

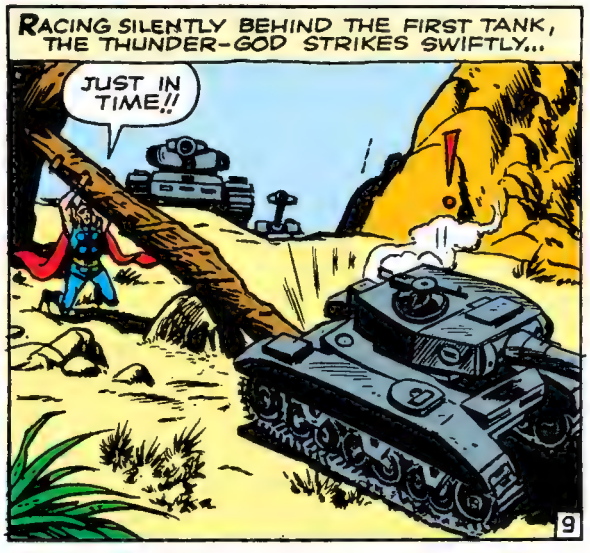
FINALLY, WHEN THE AMERICANS ARE SAFELY THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN PASS, DON BLAKE STRIKES THE MAGIC CANE THREE TIMES, BRINGING THE VIOLENT STORM TO A SUDDEN END!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED THE SUDDEN STORM, BUT WHATEVER IT WAS, IT SAVED OUR LIVES!
YES, BUT WE'RE NOT OUT OF DANGER YET! LOOK!

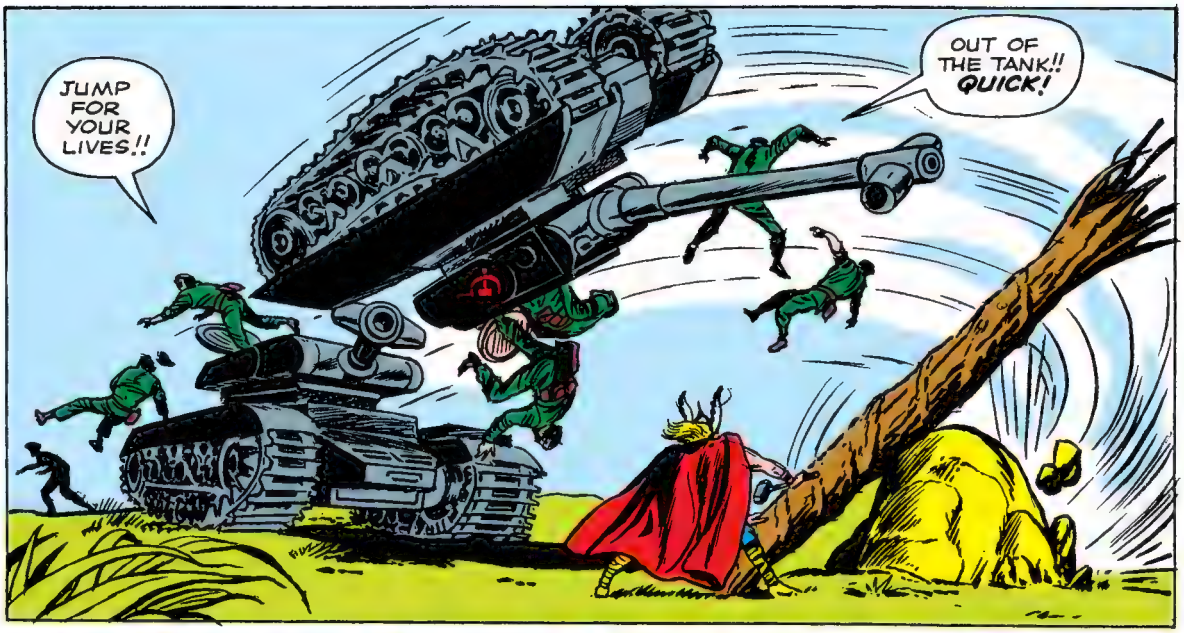

COMMIE TANKS! THEY MUST BELONG TO THE EXECUTIONER!
HE'S OUT TO GET US! AND THIS TIME HE MAY!
ONCE AGAIN, I MUST TAKE THE ASPECT OF THE MIGHTIEST OF ALL WARRIORS!

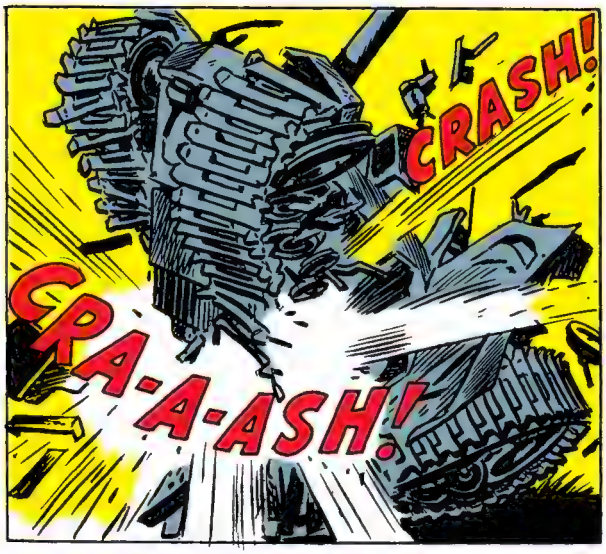

HEY, IT--IT'S HIM AGAIN!!
QUICKLY--FLEE!! I'LL HOLD THE TANKS BACK!!

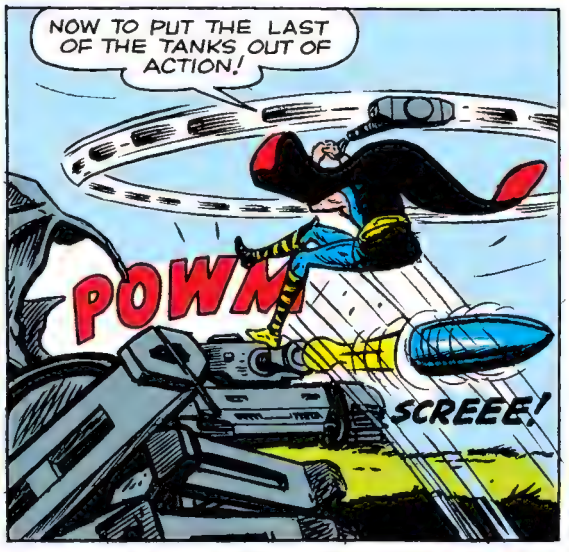

ALL I NEED IS A LEVER, ABOUT AS LARGE...

...AS THIS TREE!

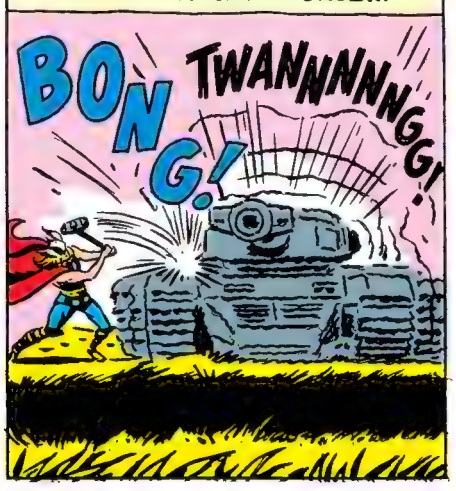

RACING SILENTLY BEHIND THE FIRST TANK, THE THUNDER-GOD STRIKES SWIFTLY...
JUST IN TIME!!







AN INSTANT LATER, THOR SMASHES HIS INVINCIBLE HAMMER INTO THE TANK WITH SUCH FORCE...

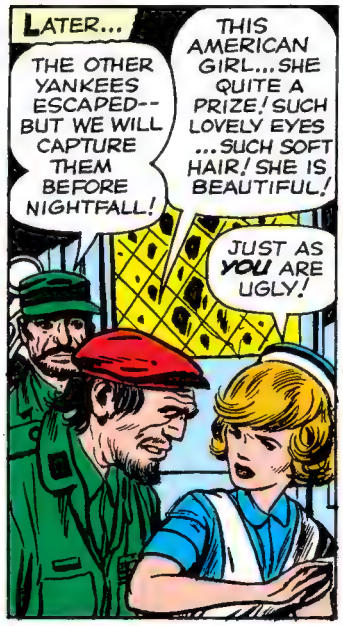


...THAT THE VIBRATION CAUSES THE VERY MOLECULES OF THE STEEL ITSELF TO DISSEMBLE AND FALL APART!

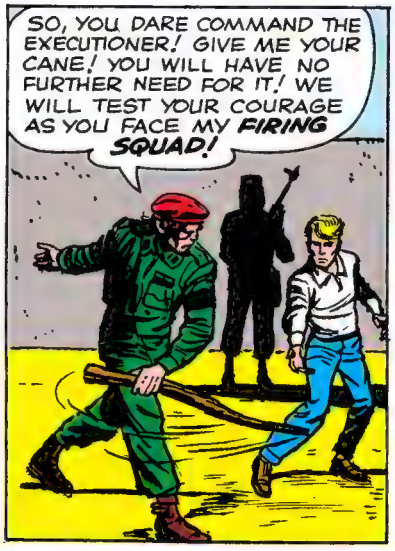
BUT THEN THE THUNDER-GOD TURNS... AND SEES THAT ALL THE AMERICANS HAVE ESCAPED... EXCEPT ONE!

THEY-- THEY'VE CAPTURED JANE!!
YOU FIGHT WITH THE STRENGTH OF A DOZEN DEMONS! BUT EVEN YOU CANNOT KEEP US FROM HOLDING THIS GIRL!
UNLESS YOU LEAVE, SHE WILL DIE!
DON'T LISTEN TO THEM! DEFEAT THEM ALL!

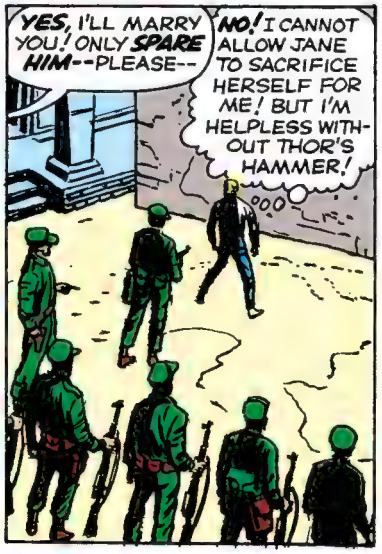
I CAN'T RISK JANE'S LIFE! I'LL FIND A PLACE TO HIDE ...AND CHANGE BACK TO DON BLAKE!
HAH! EVEN SO MIGHTY A WARRIOR AS HE, CANNOT IGNORE THE PLIGHT OF A HELPLESS WOMAN!
HE IS A FOOL!
COME--LET US TAKE HER TO THE EXECUTIONER!


LATER...
THE OTHER YANKEES ESCAPED--BUT WE WILL CAPTURE THEM BEFORE NIGHTFALL!
THIS AMERICAN GIRL...SHE QUITE A PRIZE! SUCH LOVELY EYES ...SUCH SOFT HAIR! SHE IS BEAUTIFUL!
JUST AS YOU ARE UGLY!

COMRADE EXECUTIONER --WE CAUGHT THIS YANKEE PROWLING OUTSIDE!
SO! A SPY!
DR. BLAKE!!!
I'M DOCTOR DON BLAKE! SHE'S MY NURSE! YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO HOLD HER! RELEASE HER AT ONCE!


SO, YOU DARE COMMAND THE EXECUTIONER! GIVE ME YOUR CANE! YOU WILL HAVE NO FURTHER NEED FOR IT! WE WILL TEST YOUR COURAGE AS YOU FACE MY FIRING SQUAD!

NO! DON'T SHOOT HIM! YOU MUSTN'T!
YOU LIKE HIM, EH? TELL ME WHAT YOU WOULD DO TO SAVE HIS LIFE? WOULD YOU MARRY ME??


YES, I'LL MARRY YOU! ONLY SPARE HIM--PLEASE--
NO! I CANNOT ALLOW JANE TO SACRIFICE HERSELF FOR ME! BUT I'M HELPLESS WITHOUT THOR'S HAMMER!

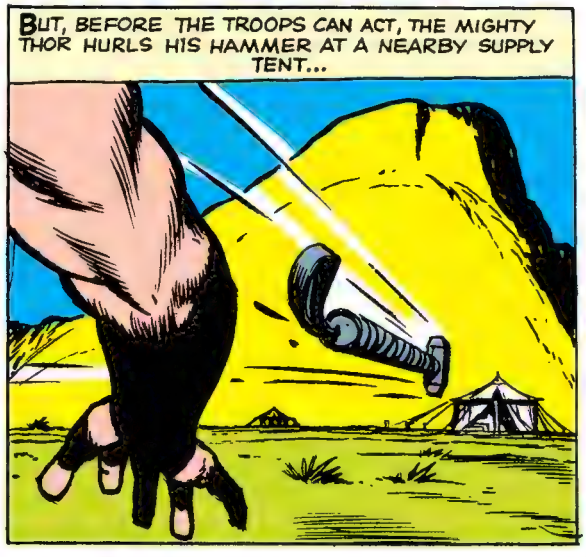
EXECUTIONER! YOU'RE A LILY-LIVERED COWARD! IF YOU WEREN'T, YOU'D FIGHT ME MAN TO MAN!

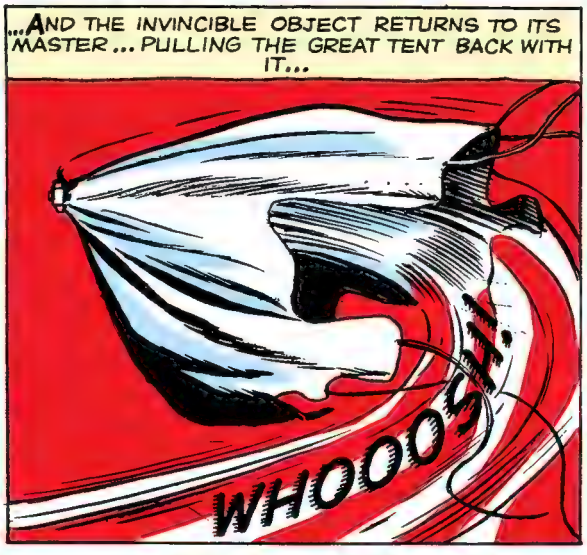
WHY, YOU PUNY YANKEE! YOU DARE INSULT THE MIGHTY EXECUTIONER!!!
MIGHTY? DO YOU NEED THAT CUDGEL TO ATTACK ONE LAME MAN??

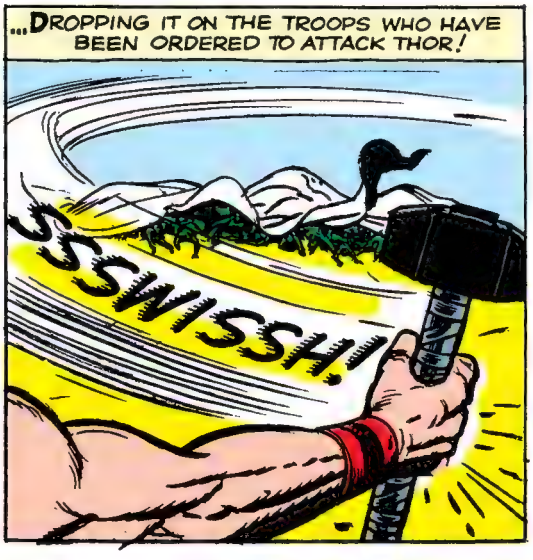
DISDAINFULLY, THE EXECUTIONER STARTS TO TOSS THE ROUGH-HEWN WALKING STICK ASIDE, BUT A SLENDER ARM REACHES OUT, AND...
WHA--?
GOT IT!

ONCE AGAIN IN POSSESSION OF THE AMAZING CANE, DON BLAKE STRIKES IT AGAINST THE WALL, PRODUCING A BLINDING LIGHTNING BOLT!
THAT FLASH--
MY EYES--I CANNOT SEE...

AND IN THAT BLAZING INSTANT, AN INCREDIBLE TRANSFORMATION AGAIN TAKES PLACE!
THE YANKEE IS GONE! HE ESCAPED!
BUT THOR IS HERE! HERE... TO METE OUT VENGEANCE!
BAH! HE IS BUT ONE MAN! HE CANNOT OPPOSE AN ENTIRE ARMY! DESTROY HIM!!

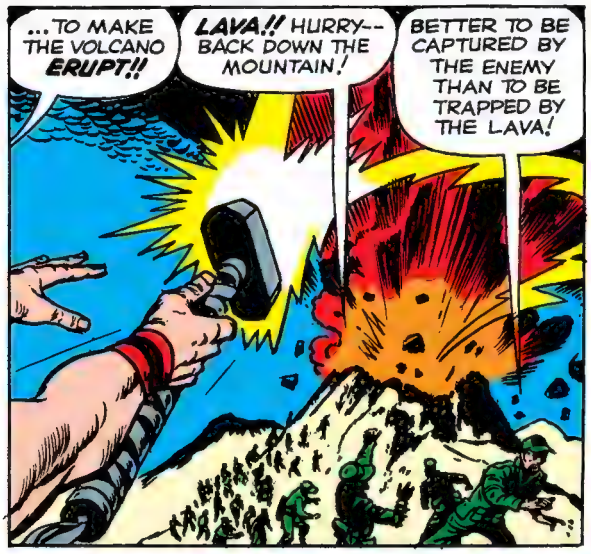

BUT, BEFORE THE TROOPS CAN ACT, THE MIGHTY THOR HURLS HIS HAMMER AT A NEARBY SUPPLY TENT...


...AND THE INVINCIBLE OBJECT RETURNS TO ITS MASTER... PULLING THE GREAT TENT BACK WITH IT...
WHOOOSH!


...DROPPING IT ON THE TROOPS WHO HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ATTACK THOR!
SSSWISSH!

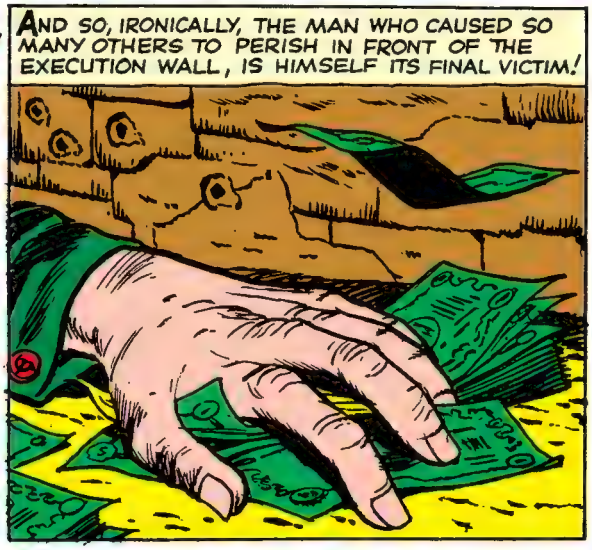
BUT THEN, ANOTHER ARMY APPEARS IN VIEW! THE ARMY OF THE DEMOCRATIC FACTION OF SAN DIABLO!
IT IS THE ENEMY! THEY ARE ON THE MARCH!
WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO ENGAGE THEM IN COMBAT! WE MUST RETREAT TO THE MOUNTAIN!

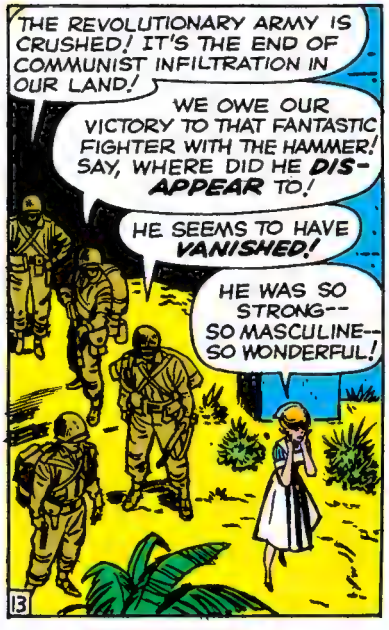
AS THE EXECUTIONER'S TROOPS FLEE, THE GOD OF THUNDER STAMPS HIS HAMMER FOUR TIMES-- BEFORE POINTING IT AT THE VOLCANIC MOUNTAIN!
A FEW LIGHTNING BOLTS ARE ALL IT WILL TAKE!

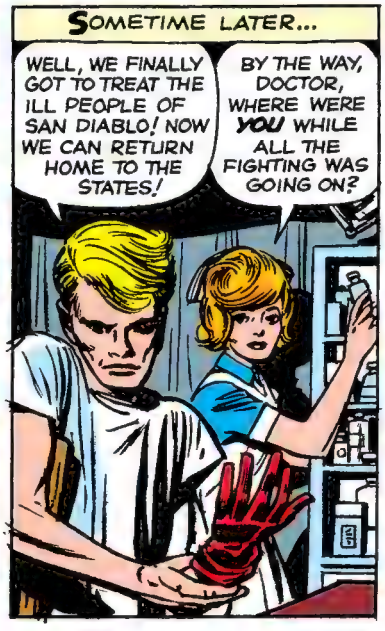

...TO MAKE THE VOLCANO ERUPT!!
LAVA!! HURRY-- BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN!
BETTER TO BE CAPTURED BY THE ENEMY THAN TO BE TRAPPED BY THE LAVA!

HIS ARMY CONFUSED AND DEFEATED, THE EXECUTIONER NOW TRIES TO ESCAPE...
LOOK-- OUR LEADER FLEES WITH OUR GOLD!
HE IS THE CAUSE OF OUR DOWNFALL, AND NOW HE TRIES TO DESERT US!
HE MUST PAY FOR HIS FAILURE!

HE BETRAYED US! HE BETRAYED OUR NATION! IT IS THE AMERICANS WHO ARE TRULY OUR FRIENDS...NOT THOSE WHO WOULD PLUNGE US INTO WAR!
KA-POW!
POW!


AND SO, IRONICALLY, THE MAN WHO CAUSED SO MANY OTHERS TO PERISH IN FRONT OF THE EXECUTION WALL, IS HIMSELF ITS FINAL VICTIM!


THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY IS CRUSHED! IT'S THE END OF COMMUNIST INFILTRATION IN OUR LAND!
WE OWE OUR VICTORY TO THAT FANTASTIC FIGHTER WITH THE HAMMER! SAY, WHERE DID HE DISAPPEAR TO!
HE SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED!
HE WAS SO STRONG-- SO MASCULINE-- SO WONDERFUL!
13

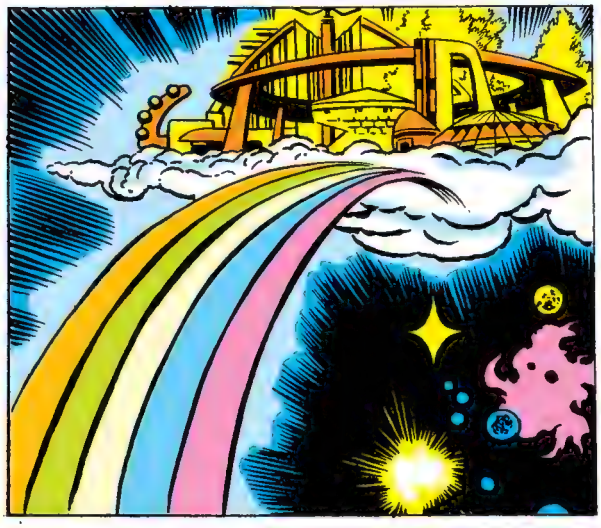

SOMETIME LATER...
WELL, WE FINALLY GOT TO TREAT THE ILL PEOPLE OF SAN DIABLO! NOW WE CAN RETURN HOME TO THE STATES!
BY THE WAY, DOCTOR, WHERE WERE YOU WHILE ALL THE FIGHTING WAS GOING ON?

I WAS...AHH... HIDING BEHIND THE EXECUTION WALL! I FIGURED IT WAS THE SAFEST PLACE TO BE!
OH, I SEE...!
HIDING! GOLLY, WHY COULDN'T YOU BE BRAVE AND ADVENTUROUS LIKE--THOR! BUT NO...THAT WOULD JUST BE TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR!
the END

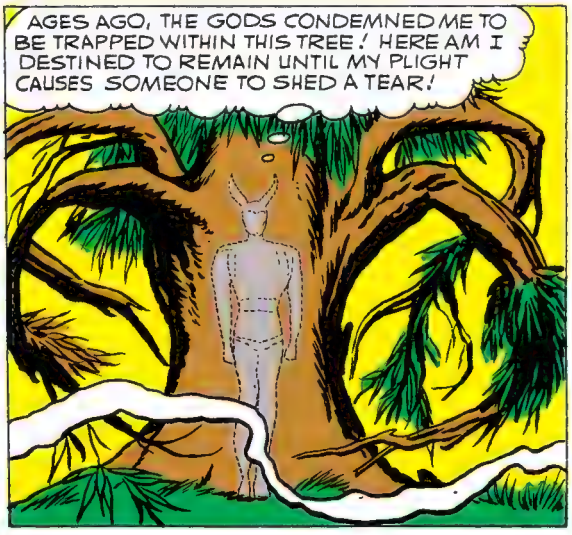
IND.
12¢
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
85 OCT
I CHALLENGE YOU TO MATCH YOUR POWERS AGAINST MINE, THOR!
NEVER BEFORE HAS THE MIGHTY THOR FACED A FOE AS DANGEROUS AS LOKI, THE GOD OF MISCHIEF!!
TAKE THESE OTHER JOURNEYS INTO MYSTERY IN THIS GREAT ISSUE...
"FILBERT'S FRIGHTFUL FUTURE!"
"OFF-LIMITS!"
IT IS LOKI, MY SWORN ENEMY! HE HAS FOUND ME AT LAST!

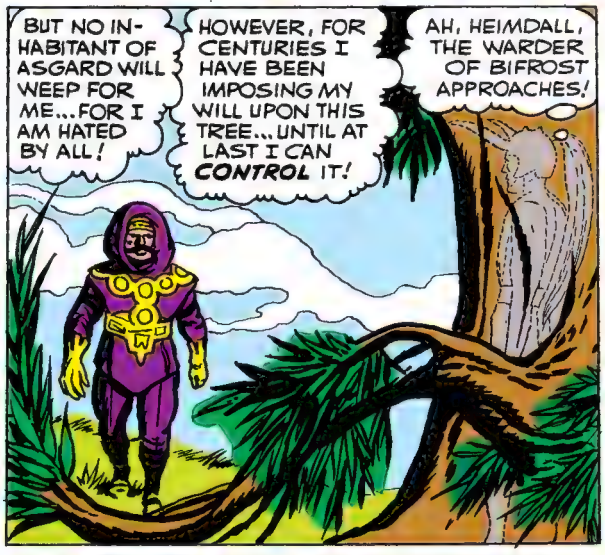
THOR
THE MIGHTY
AT LAST YOU'VE MET YOUR MATCH, THOR! THE POWER OF LOKI IS EVER GREATER THAN YOURS!
"TRAPPED BY LOKI, THE GOD OF MISCHIEF!"
1

BEYOND OUR SEGMENT OF TIME AND SPACE, THERE EXISTS **ASGARD**, THE CITADEL OF THE NORSE GODS, WHICH IS CONNECTED TO EARTH BY A RAINBOW BRIDGE CALLED **BIFROST!**



AND, IN A REMOTE PART OF ASGARD, THERE STANDS A TREE, IN WHICH IS IMPRISONED LOKI, THE GOD OF MISCHIEF!


AGES AGO, THE GODS CONDEMNED ME TO BE TRAPPED WITHIN THIS TREE! HERE AM I DESTINED TO REMAIN UNTIL MY PLIGHT CAUSES SOMEONE TO SHED A TEAR!


BUT NO INHABITANT OF ASGARD WILL WEEP FOR ME...FOR I AM HATED BY ALL!
HOWEVER, FOR CENTURIES I HAVE BEEN IMPOSING MY WILL UPON THIS TREE...UNTIL AT LAST I CAN **CONTROL** IT!
AH, HEIMDALL, THE WARDER OF BIFROST APPROACHES!

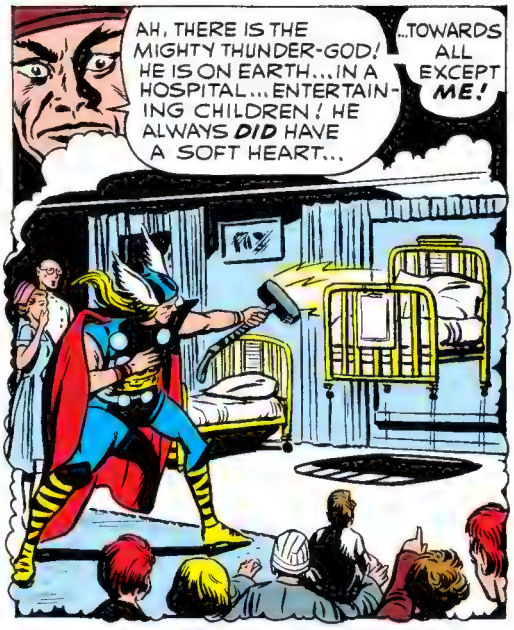
HAVING BECOME MASTER OF THE TREE, THE VILLAINOUS LOKI COMMANDS ONE OF ITS LEAVES TO BREAK OFF AND FALL DOWN, INTO THE EYE OF THE PASSING DEITY...

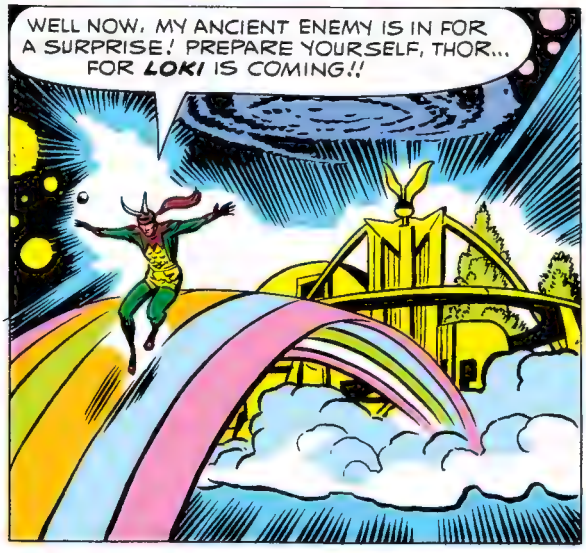
BECAUSE OF MY PLIGHT, I WAS ABLE TO GAIN CONTROL OF THIS TREE! AND THUS I WAS ABLE TO AFFECT HEIMDALL'S EYE! THEREFORE MY PLIGHT DID INDEED CAUSE HIM TO SHED A TEAR!

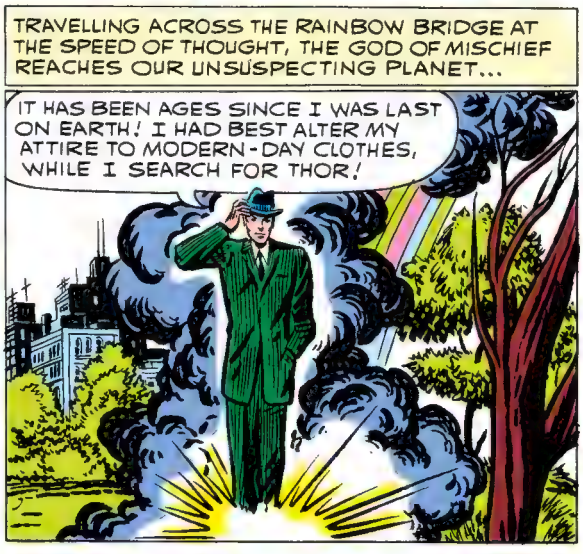
AND NOW, BY MY CUNNING WIT, I AM AT LAST FREE! FREE TO CAUSE MISCHIEF--TO CREATE DISCORD--AND TO SEEK REVENGE AGAINST THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY CAPTURE--**THOR**, THE THUNDER GOD!

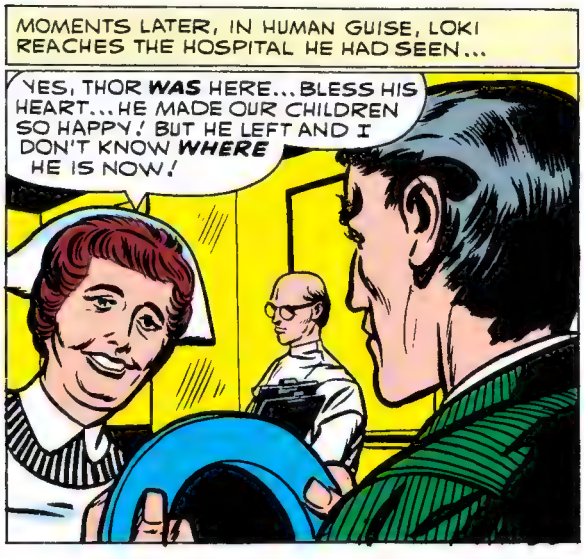
THOR HAS NOT BEEN IN ASGARD FOR AGES! NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE IS! BUT I SHALL FIND HIM THROUGH HIS HAMMER!
HIS MALLET IS MADE OF URU, THE MAGIC MINERAL! BEFOR I WAS IMPRISONED, I ESTABLISHED A MENTAL "LINK" WITH IT! NOW, I SHALL USE THAT LINK TO LOCATE THE HAMMER!

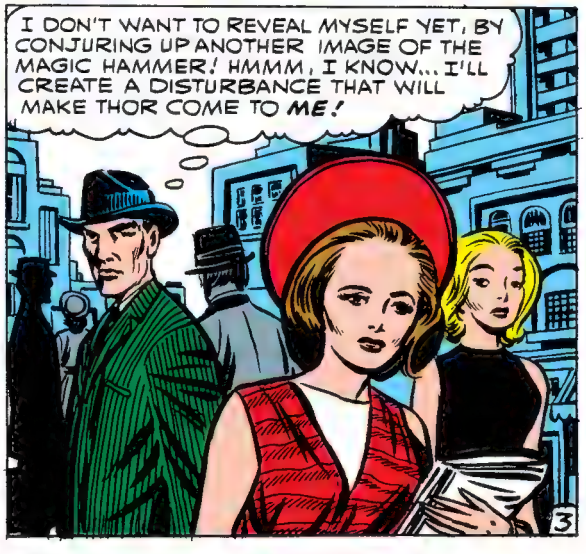
THE IMAGE IS APPEARING... I CAN SEE THE URU HAMMER...

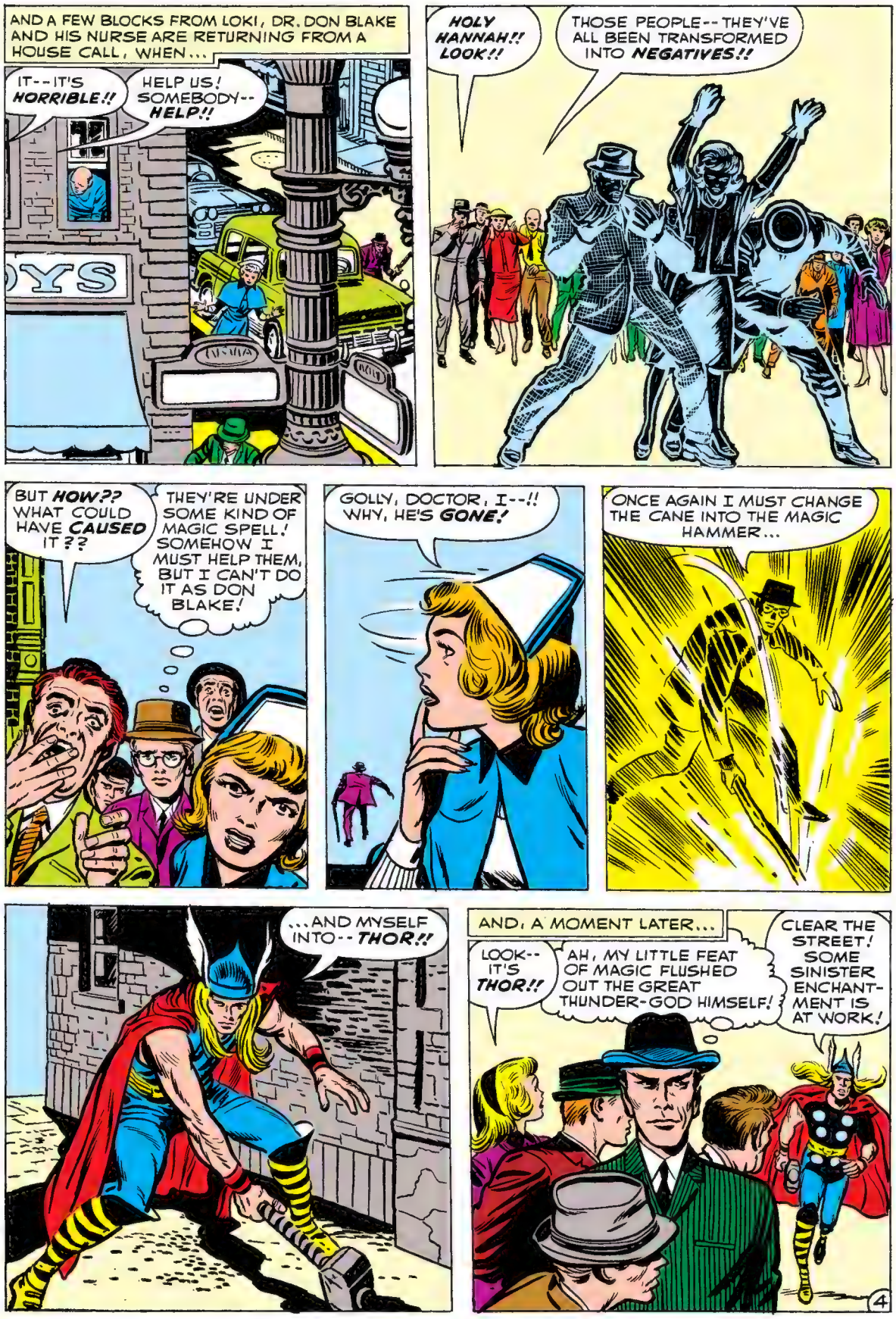

AH, THERE IS THE MIGHTY THUNDER-GOD! HE IS ON EARTH... IN A HOSPITAL... ENTERTAINING CHILDREN! HE ALWAYS DID HAVE A SOFT HEART...
...TOWARDS ALL EXCEPT ME!


WELL NOW, MY ANCIENT ENEMY IS IN FOR A SURPRISE! PREPARE YOURSELF, THOR... FOR LOKI IS COMING!!


TRAVELLING ACROSS THE RAINBOW BRIDGE AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT, THE GOD OF MISCHIEF REACHES OUR UNSUSPECTING PLANET...
IT HAS BEEN AGES SINCE I WAS LAST ON EARTH! I HAD BEST ALTER MY ATTIRE TO MODERN-DAY CLOTHES, WHILE I SEARCH FOR THOR!


MOMENTS LATER, IN HUMAN GUISE, LOKI REACHES THE HOSPITAL HE HAD SEEN...
YES, THOR WAS HERE... BLESS HIS HEART... HE MADE OUR CHILDREN SO HAPPY! BUT HE LEFT AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW!


I DON'T WANT TO REVEAL MYSELF YET, BY CONJURING UP ANOTHER IMAGE OF THE MAGIC HAMMER! HMMM, I KNOW... I'LL CREATE A DISTURBANCE THAT WILL MAKE THOR COME TO ME!
3

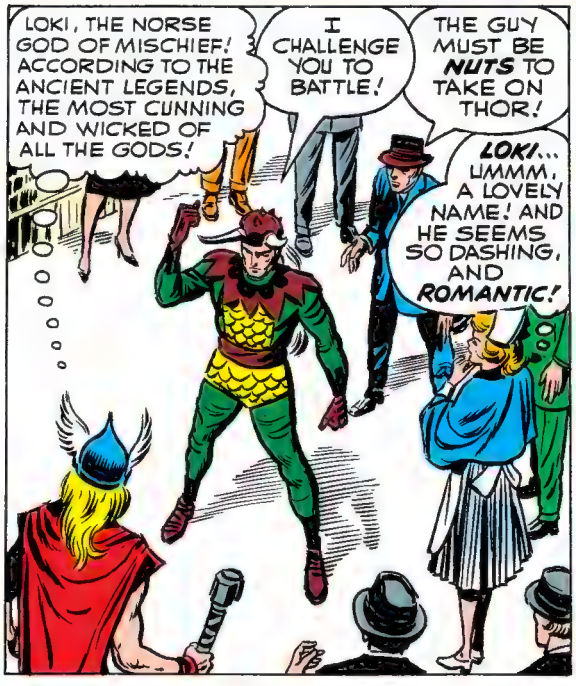

AND A FEW BLOCKS FROM LOKI, DR. DON BLAKE AND HIS NURSE ARE RETURNING FROM A HOUSE CALL, WHEN...
IT--IT'S HORRIBLE!!
HELP US! SOMEBODY--HELP!!
HOLY HANNAH!! LOOK!!
THOSE PEOPLE--THEY'VE ALL BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO NEGATIVES!!
BUT HOW?? WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED IT??
THEY'RE UNDER SOME KIND OF MAGIC SPELL! SOMEHOW I MUST HELP THEM, BUT I CAN'T DO IT AS DON BLAKE!
GOLLY, DOCTOR, I--!! WHY, HE'S GONE!
ONCE AGAIN I MUST CHANGE THE CANE INTO THE MAGIC HAMMER...
...AND MYSELF INTO--THOR!!
AND, A MOMENT LATER...
LOOK--IT'S THOR!!
AH, MY LITTLE FEAT OF MAGIC FLUSHED OUT THE GREAT THUNDER-GOD HIMSELF!
CLEAR THE STREET! SOME SINISTER ENCHANTMENT IS AT WORK!
4

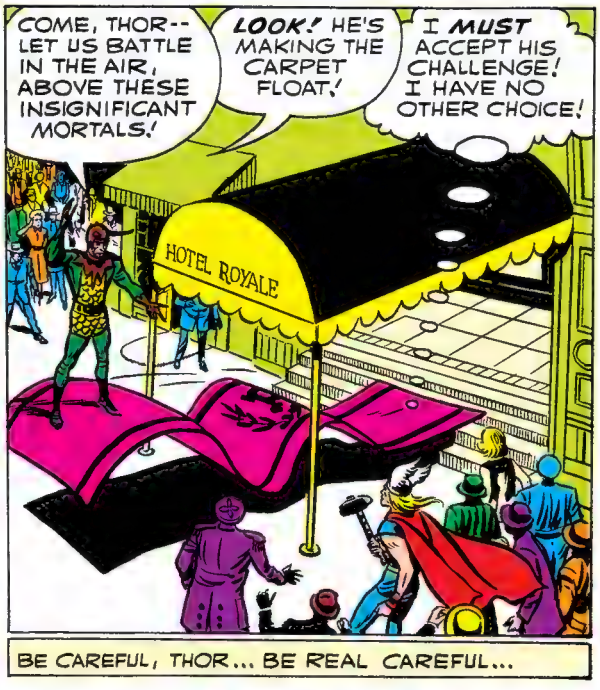
IF I ROTATE MY HAMMER FAST ENOUGH, IT WILL EMIT ANTI-MATTER PARTICLES! THERE--IT IS WORKING!
NOW I'LL JUST USE THE HAMMER AS A SUPER FAN, TO BLOW THE ANTI-MATTER PARTICLES AT THE "NEGATIVE" VICTIMS!
AND, AS THE ANTI-MATTER REVERSES THEIR ATOMS, IT TRANSFORMS THEM BACK INTO "POSITIVE" PEOPLE AGAIN!
THE SPELL IS OVER!! WE--WE'RE NORMAL AGAIN!!
THANKS TO THOR!
WHAT A GREAT PERFORMANCE!!
YOU WERE WONDERFUL!!
GREETINGS, THOR! IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, HASN'T IT?
A LONG TIME?
I SEE YOU DO NOT REMEMBER ME! VERY WELL, PERHAPS THIS WILL REFRESH YOUR MEMORY!
CRACK!
NOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME?? THE GOD YOU IMPRISONED--THE GOD WHO IS YOUR ETERNAL ENEMY, AND WHO HAS COME TO EARTH SEEKING VENGEANCE!!
LOKI!
5

PART 2

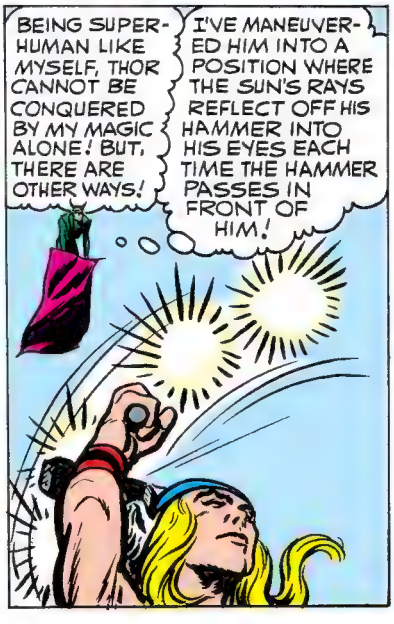
THOR THE MIGHTY

"THE VENGEANCE OF LOKI!"


LOKI, THE NORSE GOD OF MISCHIEF! ACCORDING TO THE ANCIENT LEGENDS, THE MOST CUNNING AND WICKED OF ALL THE GODS!
I CHALLENGE YOU TO BATTLE!
THE GUY MUST BE NUTS TO TAKE ON THOR!
LOKI... UMMM, A LOVELY NAME! AND HE SEEMS SO DASHING, AND ROMANTIC!

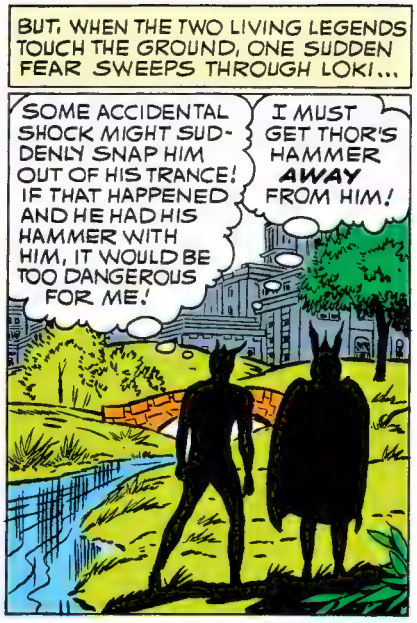

COME, THOR-- LET US BATTLE IN THE AIR, ABOVE THESE INSIGNIFICANT MORTALS!
LOOK! HE'S MAKING THE CARPET FLOAT!
I MUST ACCEPT HIS CHALLENGE! I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!
HOTEL ROYALE
BE CAREFUL, THOR... BE REAL CAREFUL...

WHIRLING HIS HAMMER ABOVE HIS HEAD, THE THUNDER GOD RISES AS SMOOTHLY AS A HELICOPTER...
MY PLAN IS WORKING...HE'S FOLLOWING ME UP...


BEING SUPER-HUMAN LIKE MYSELF, THOR CANNOT BE CONQUERED BY MY MAGIC ALONE! BUT, THERE ARE OTHER WAYS!
I'VE MANEUVERED HIM INTO A POSITION WHERE THE SUN'S RAYS REFLECT OFF HIS HAMMER INTO HIS EYES EACH TIME THE HAMMER PASSES IN FRONT OF HIM!

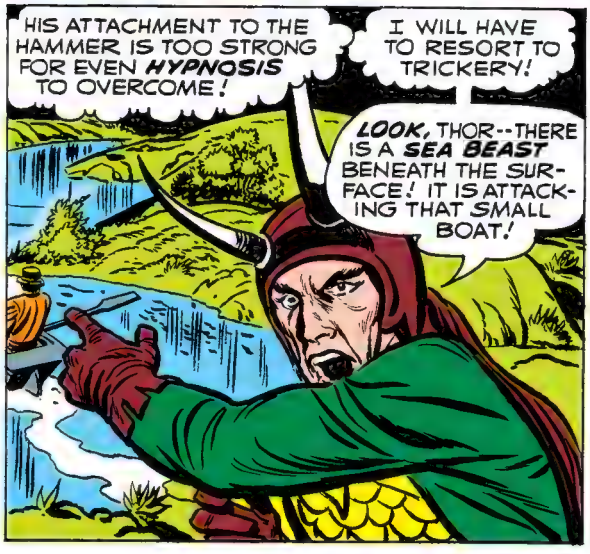
THE BLINKING REFLECTION PLUS MY POWER OF SUGGESTION WILL SOON HAVE HIM HYPNOTIZED!
YOU ARE TIRED, THOR... TOO TIRED TO REMAIN AWAKE...YOU MUST SLEEP... SLEEP...
I MUST SLEEP...
6

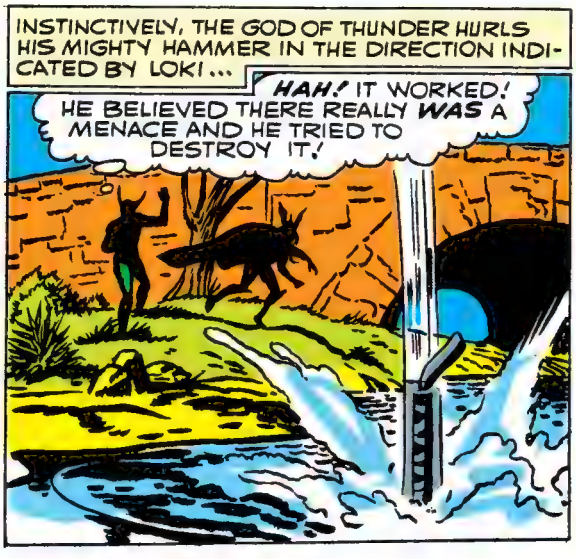
I HAVE TRIUMPHED! NOW TO HAVE MY REVENGE! I SHALL USE THOR AS MY INSTRUMENT FOR CREATING MISCHIEF!
DESCEND TO EARTH, THOR!
YES, LOKI!

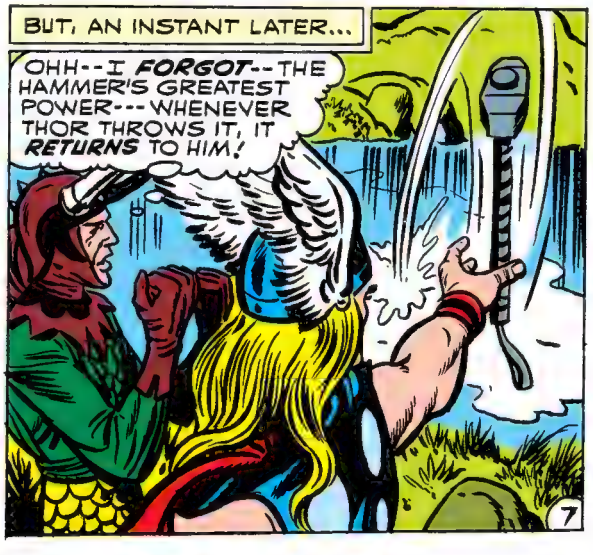

BUT, WHEN THE TWO LIVING LEGENDS TOUCH THE GROUND, ONE SUDDEN FEAR SWEEPS THROUGH LOKI...
SOME ACCIDENTAL SHOCK MIGHT SUDDENLY SNAP HIM OUT OF HIS TRANCE! IF THAT HAPPENED AND HE HAD HIS HAMMER WITH HIM, IT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS FOR ME!
I MUST GET THOR'S HAMMER AWAY FROM HIM!

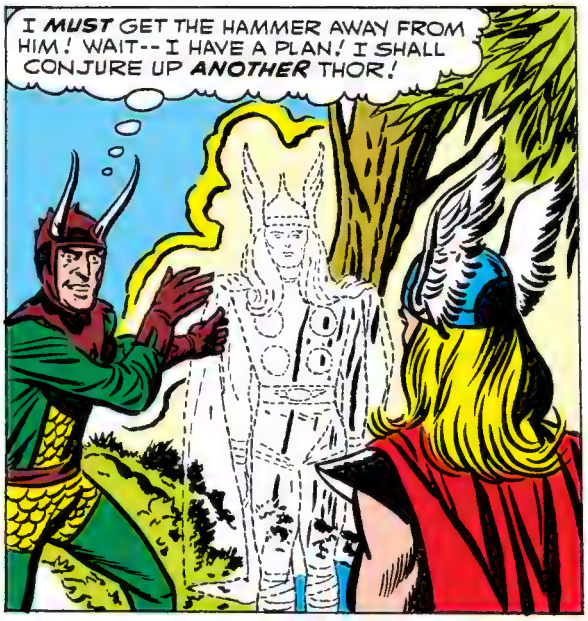
I COMMAND YOU TO GIVE ME THE ENCHANTED HAMMER!
I...I CANNOT OBEY YOU, LOKI! BY THE WILL OF ODIN,* THE MAGIC WEAPON MUST NEVER BE WRESTED FROM THOR!

EDITOR'S NOTE! * ODIN IS THE RULER OF ALL NORSE GODS!

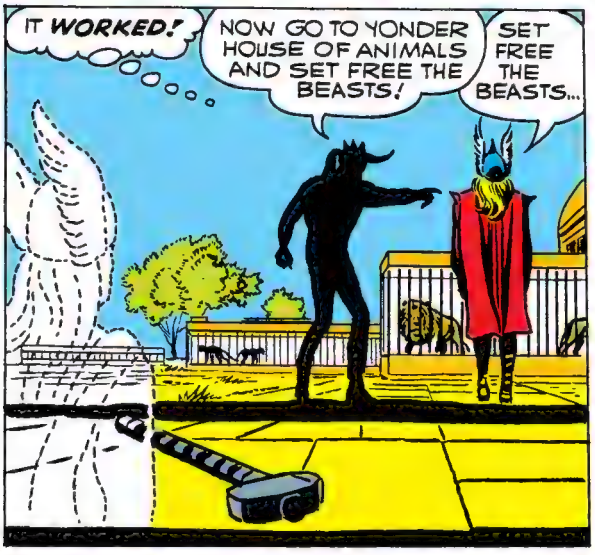

HIS ATTACHMENT TO THE HAMMER IS TOO STRONG FOR EVEN HYPNOSIS TO OVERCOME!
I WILL HAVE TO RESORT TO TRICKERY!
LOOK, THOR--THERE IS A SEA BEAST BENEATH THE SURFACE! IT IS ATTACKING THAT SMALL BOAT!

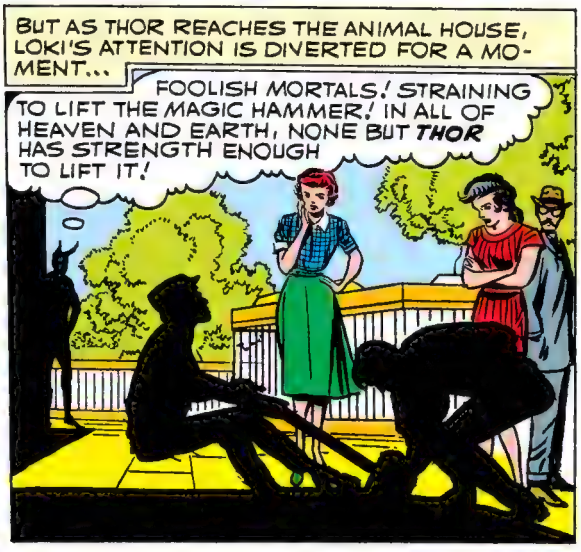

INSTINCTIVELY, THE GOD OF THUNDER HURLS HIS MIGHTY HAMMER IN THE DIRECTION INDICATED BY LOKI...
HAH! IT WORKED! HE BELIEVED THERE REALLY WAS A MENACE AND HE TRIED TO DESTROY IT!

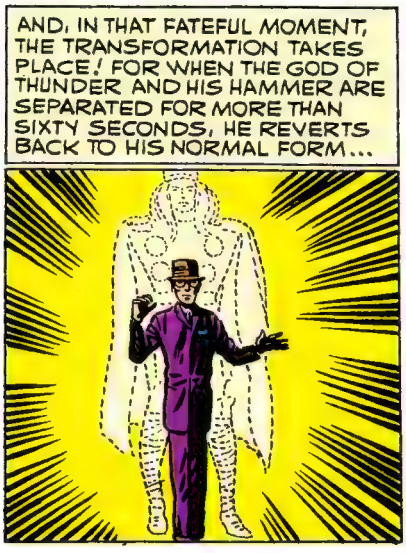


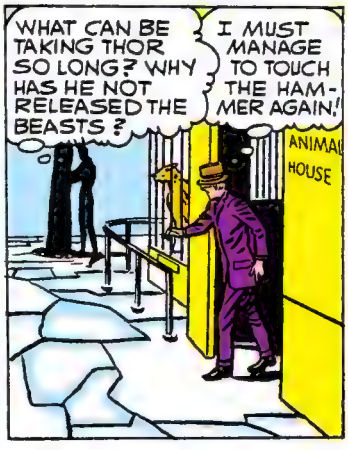

I MUST GET THE HAMMER AWAY FROM HIM! WAIT--I HAVE A PLAN! I SHALL CONJURE UP ANOTHER THOR!

IN HIS HYPNOTIC TRANCE, HE MIGHT JUST BE DECEIVED BY THE IMAGE I'VE CREATED!
BEHOLD THOR, THE MIGHTY--THE THUNDER GOD! THE HAMMER IS HIS! GIVE IT TO HIM!
YES, LOKI! THE HAMMER BELONGS TO THOR!


IT WORKED!
NOW GO TO YONDER HOUSE OF ANIMALS AND SET FREE THE BEASTS!
SET FREE THE BEASTS...


BUT AS THOR REACHES THE ANIMAL HOUSE, LOKI'S ATTENTION IS DIVERTED FOR A MOMENT...
FOOLISH MORTALS! STRAINING TO LIFT THE MAGIC HAMMER! IN ALL OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, NONE BUT THOR HAS STRENGTH ENOUGH TO LIFT IT!

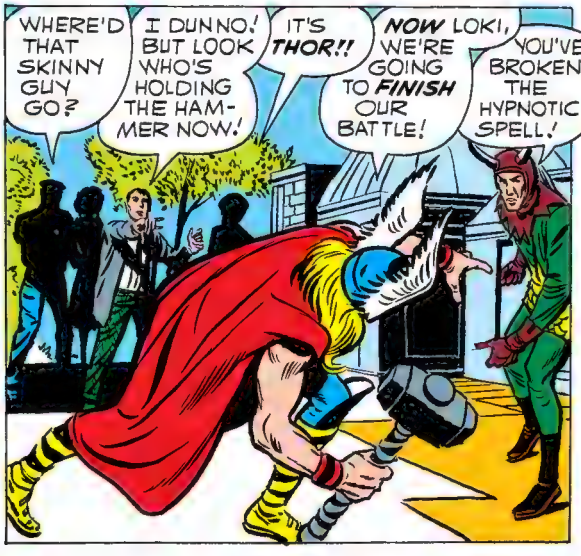

AND, IN THAT FATEFUL MOMENT, THE TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE! FOR WHEN THE GOD OF THUNDER AND HIS HAMMER ARE SEPARATED FOR MORE THAN SIXTY SECONDS, HE REVERTS BACK TO HIS NORMAL FORM...

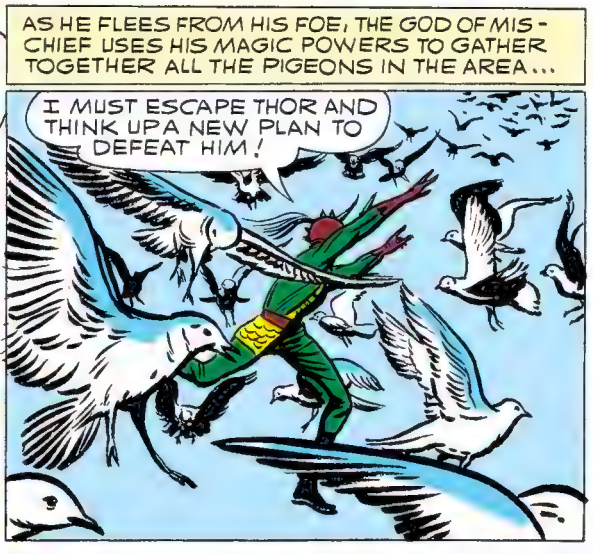

...AND THE HYPNOTIC SPELL WHICH THOR WAS UNDER HAS NO EFFECT UPON THE PERSON OF DR. DON BLAKE...
WHAT CAN BE TAKING THOR SO LONG? WHY HAS HE NOT RELEASED THE BEASTS?
I MUST MANAGE TO TOUCH THE HAMMER AGAIN!
ANIMAL HOUSE

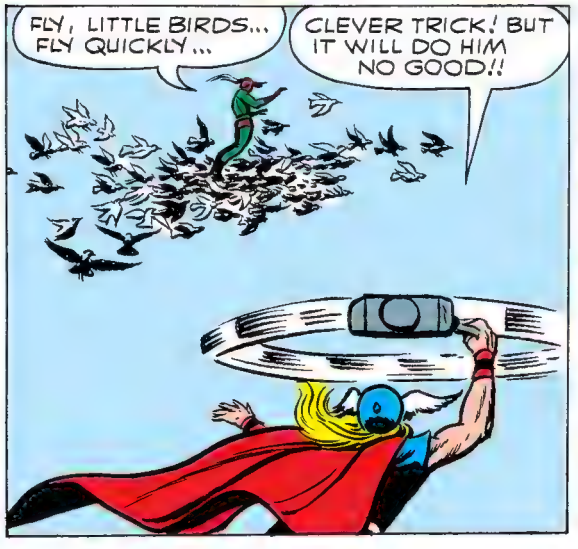
I DON'T GET IT! I CAN'T LIFT THIS THING CLEAR OFF THE GROUND!
WHEW! I STRAINED EVERY MUSCLE IN MY ARM AND STILL COULDN'T BUDGE IT!
LET ME TRY!

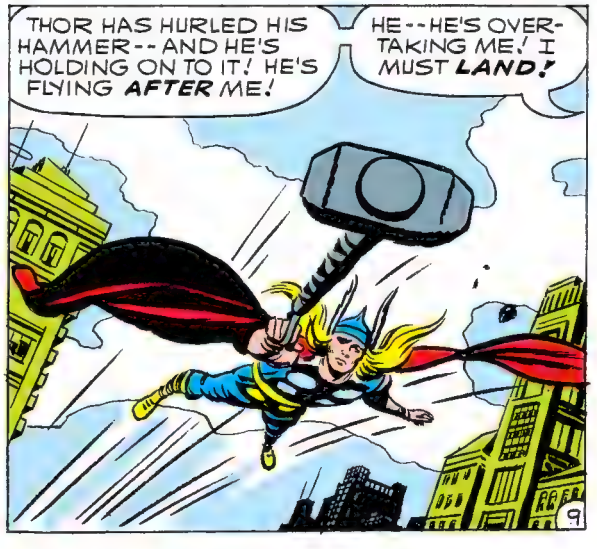
ARE YOU KIDDIN'?? WE COULDN'T LIFT IT, SO HOW CAN A SKINNY GUY LIKE YOU DO IT?
LET THE POOR SAP TRY! IT'LL BE GOOD FOR A LAUGH!

BUT, THE INSTANT DON BLAKE TOUCHES THE MAGIC HAMMER, THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT...
MY EYES!!
I CAN'T SEE!

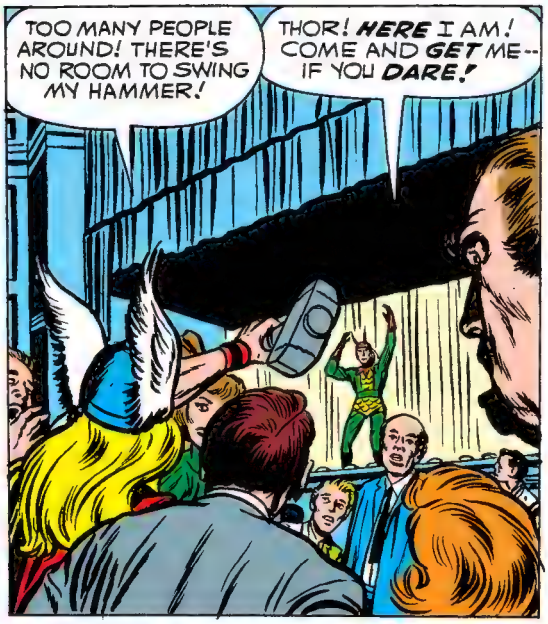

WHERE'D THAT SKINNY GUY GO?
I DUNNO! BUT LOOK WHO'S HOLDING THE HAMMER NOW!
IT'S THOR!!
NOW LOKI, WE'RE GOING TO FINISH OUR BATTLE!
YOU'VE BROKEN THE HYPNOTIC SPELL!


AS HE FLEES FROM HIS FOE, THE GOD OF MISCHIEF USES HIS MAGIC POWERS TO GATHER TOGETHER ALL THE PIGEONS IN THE AREA...
I MUST ESCAPE THOR AND THINK UP A NEW PLAN TO DEFEAT HIM!


FLY, LITTLE BIRDS... FLY QUICKLY...
CLEVER TRICK! BUT IT WILL DO HIM NO GOOD!!


THOR HAS HURLED HIS HAMMER--AND HE'S HOLDING ON TO IT! HE'S FLYING AFTER ME!
HE--HE'S OVERTAKING ME! I MUST LAND!

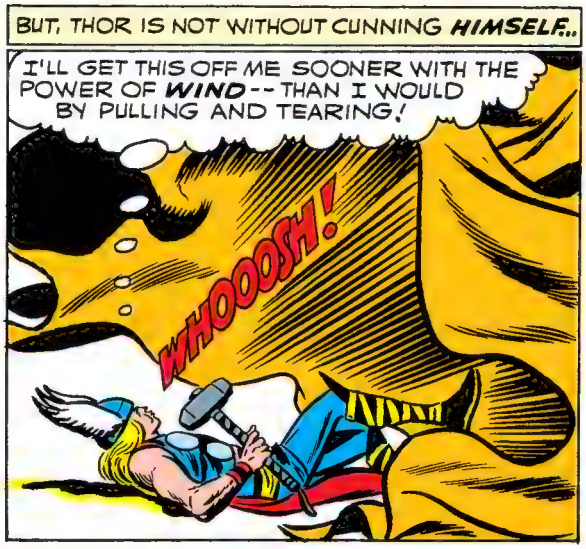
I CAN USE THIS CROWDED THEATER TO MY ADVANTAGE!
BEGONE, PIGEONS!
LOOK! WHAT-- WHO IS IT??
MUST BE AN ADVERTISING STUNT!

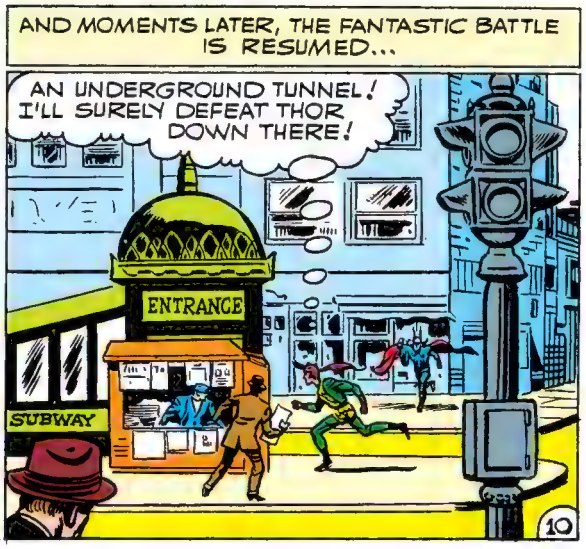

TOO MANY PEOPLE AROUND! THERE'S NO ROOM TO SWING MY HAMMER!
THOR! HERE I AM! COME AND GET ME-- IF YOU DARE!

BAH! HAMMER OR NO HAMMER-- MY STRENGTH IS STILL THE GREATEST OF ALL THE GODS!

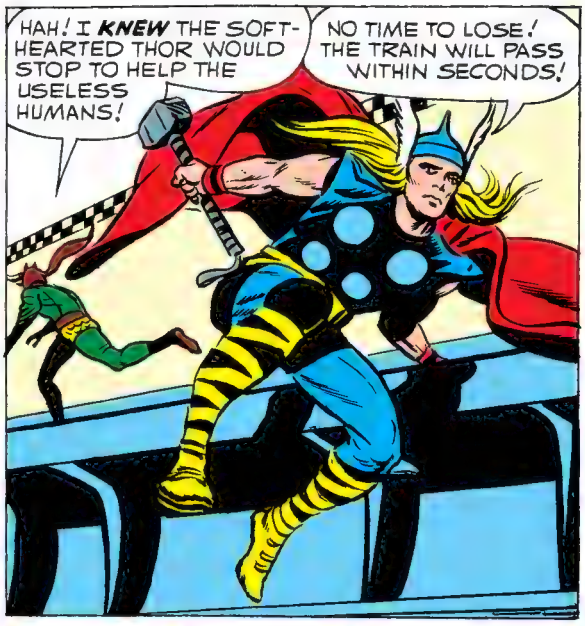
BUT ONCE AGAIN, LOKI USES HIS CRAFTY TALENT TO BEST THE GOD OF THUNDER...
WITH A SIMPLE BIT OF MAGIC, I RELEASE THE CURTAIN FROM ITS SUPPORTS!

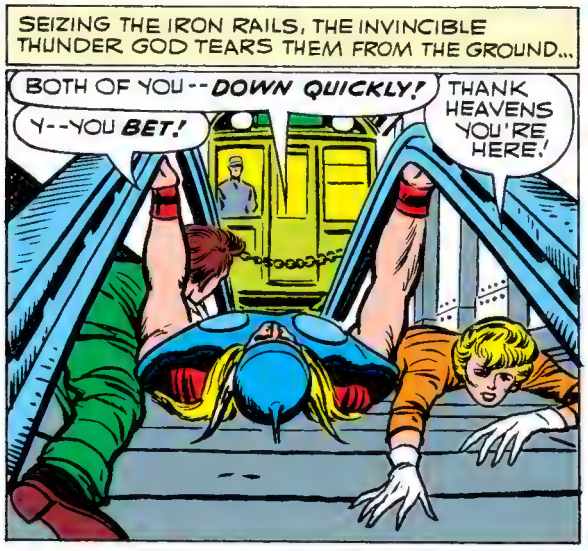
...AND WHILE MY MIGHTY OPPONENT STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF, I AGAIN MAKE MY ESCAPE! HA! HA! HA!

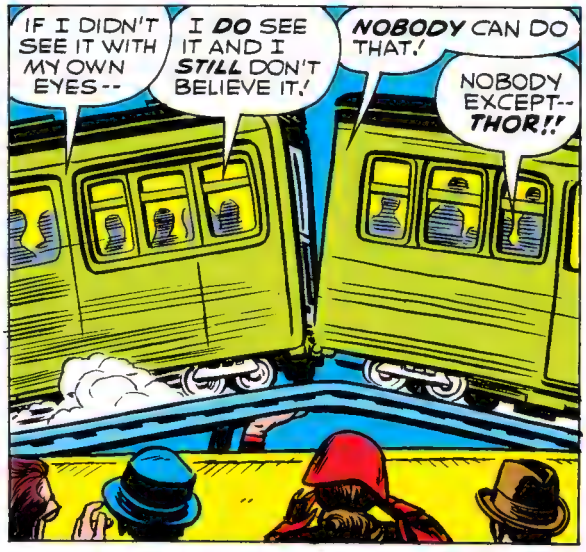

BUT, THOR IS NOT WITHOUT CUNNING HIMSELF...
I'LL GET THIS OFF ME SOONER WITH THE POWER OF WIND -- THAN I WOULD BY PULLING AND TEARING!
WHOOOSH!

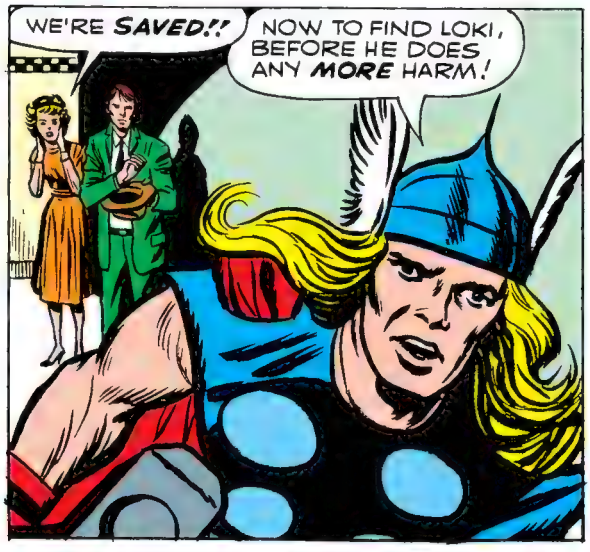

AND MOMENTS LATER, THE FANTASTIC BATTLE IS RESUMED...
AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL! I'LL SURELY DEFEAT THOR DOWN THERE!
ENTRANCE
SUBWAY

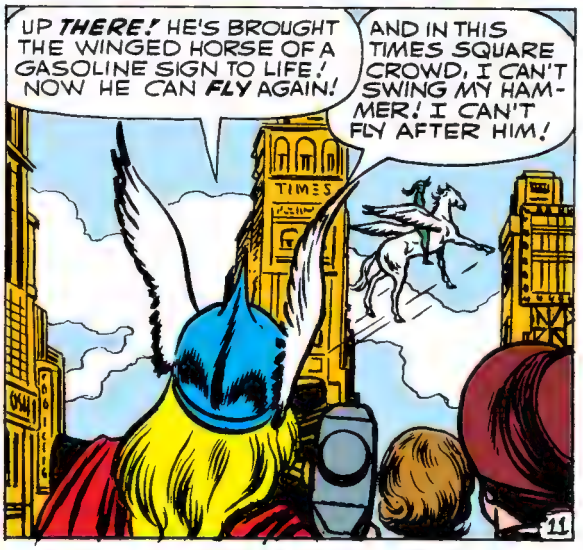
HE'S PUSHING THOSE PEOPLE OFF THE PLATFORM--AND A TRAIN'S COMING!
AWAY, PUNY MORTALS!

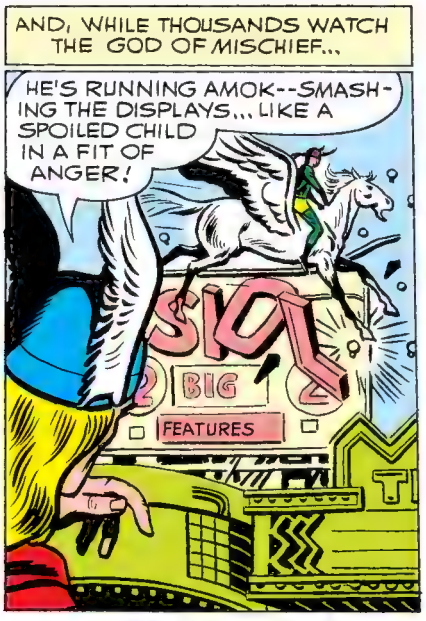

HAH! I KNEW THE SOFT-HEARTED THOR WOULD STOP TO HELP THE USELESS HUMANS!
NO TIME TO LOSE! THE TRAIN WILL PASS WITHIN SECONDS!


SEIZING THE IRON RAILS, THE INVINCIBLE THUNDER GOD TEARS THEM FROM THE GROUND...
BOTH OF YOU--DOWN QUICKLY!
Y--YOU BET!
THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE HERE!

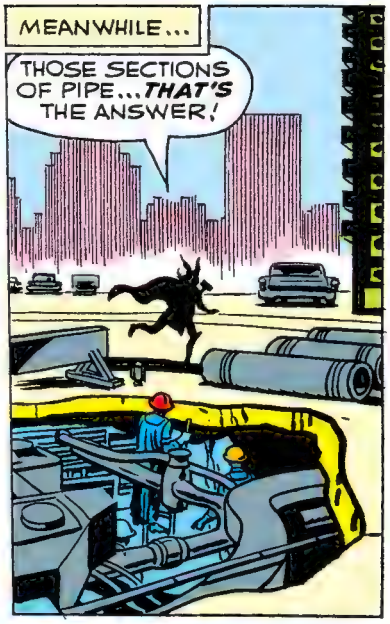

IF I DIDN'T SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES--
I DO SEE IT AND I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT!
NOBODY CAN DO THAT!
NOBODY EXCEPT--THOR!!


WE'RE SAVED!!
NOW TO FIND LOKI, BEFORE HE DOES ANY MORE HARM!

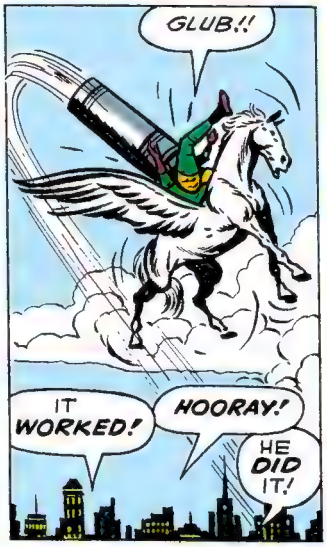

UP THERE! HE'S BROUGHT THE WINGED HORSE OF A GASOLINE SIGN TO LIFE! NOW HE CAN FLY AGAIN!
AND IN THIS TIMES SQUARE CROWD, I CAN'T SWING MY HAMMER! I CAN'T FLY AFTER HIM!
TIMES

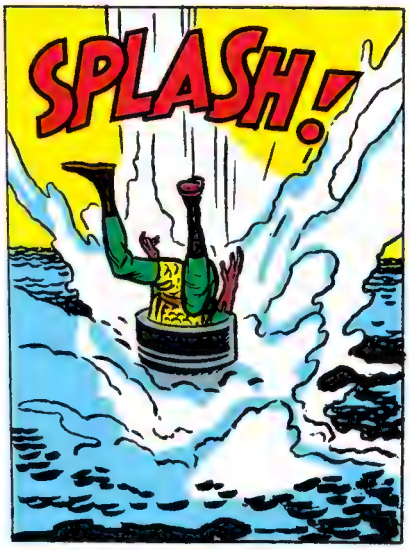

AND, WHILE THOUSANDS WATCH THE GOD OF MISCHIEF...
HE'S RUNNING AMOK--SMASHING THE DISPLAYS... LIKE A SPOILED CHILD IN A FIT OF ANGER!
BIG
FEATURES

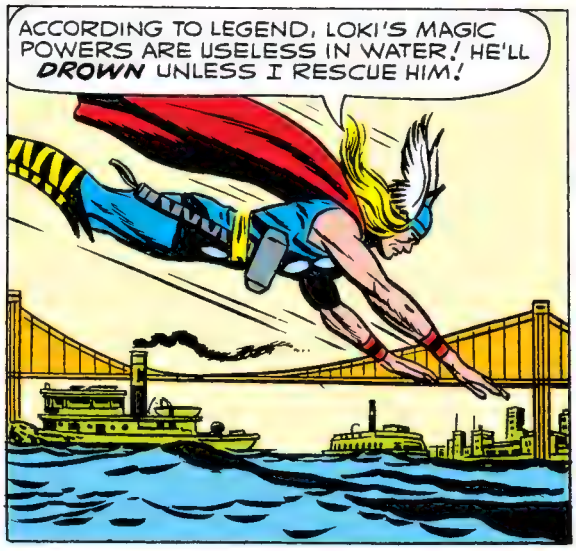
BUT, LOKI SOON BECOMES BORED WITH HIS AMUSEMENT AND LEAVES...
WHILE I'M APPROACHING YONDER STATUE, I'LL THINK OF A WAY TO DEFEAT THOR ONCE AND FOR ALL!

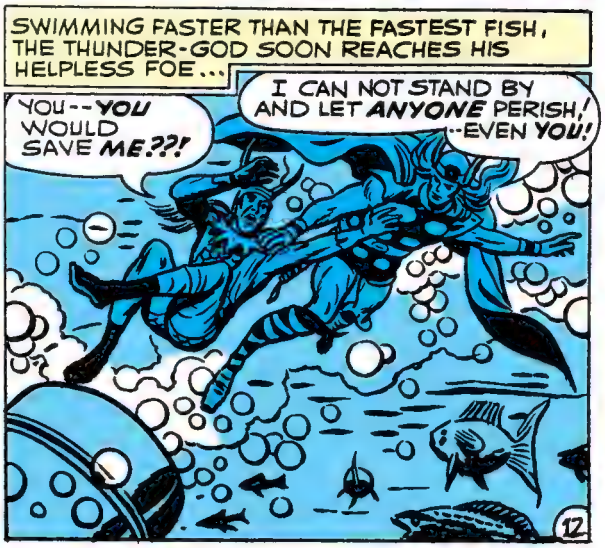

MEANWHILE...
THOSE SECTIONS OF PIPE...THAT'S THE ANSWER!

GRABBING ONE OF THE SECTIONS, THE MIGHTY THOR HURLS IT HIGH INTO THE AIR...
I PRAY MY AIM IS AS SUPERHUMAN AS MY STRENGTH!


GLUB!!
IT WORKED!
HOORAY!
HE DID IT!


SPLASH!


ACCORDING TO LEGEND, LOKI'S MAGIC POWERS ARE USELESS IN WATER! HE'LL DROWN UNLESS I RESCUE HIM!


SWIMMING FASTER THAN THE FASTEST FISH, THE THUNDER-GOD SOON REACHES HIS HELPLESS FOE...
YOU--YOU WOULD SAVE ME??!
I CAN NOT STAND BY AND LET ANYONE PERISH, --EVEN YOU!

MOMENTS LATER, BACK ON SHORE...

WHERE ARE YOU ***TAKING*** ME?? ***STOP!*** GIVE ME A CHANCE TO ***DRY*** MYSELF!

WE'RE GOING TO ***THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING***...AND I'M KEEPING YOU WET SO YOU CAN'T USE YOUR MAGIC AGAINST ME!

SOON, ATOP THE WORLD'S TALLEST SKYSCRAPER!

WHY HAVE YOU TIED ME TO YOUR HAMMER?? NO! STOP!! ***DON'T!***

I'M SENDING YOU BACK TO ASGARD, LOKI--THE FASTEST WAY POSSIBLE!

FAREWELL, GOD OF MISCHIEF! MAY WE NEVER MEET AGAIN!

HURLED AT ALMOST THE SPEED OF THOUGHT, THE MAGIC HAMMER CARRIES ITS LIVING BURDEN HIGHER AND HIGHER... UNTIL IT REACHES THE RAINBOW BRIDGE AND THE CITADEL OF THE GODS, WHERE IT SWEEPS DOWN IN A GREAT ARC, BEFORE ODIN, BALDER, TYR, AND THE OTHER ASTONISHED GODS...

BEHOLD! IT IS THE HAMMER OF ***THOR!***

IT BRINGS LOKI BACK TO US!

...AND RETURNS TO ITS MASTER!

ONCE AGAIN, MY ELDEST SON--THE LORD OF THUNDER, HAS VANQUISHED LOKI!

THE HAMMER RETURNS JUST IN TIME! ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GONE A FULL MINUTE, CAUSING ME TO LOSE MY POWERS!

THEN ***DON BLAKE*** WOULD HAVE BEEN STANDING HERE, TRYING TO CATCH IT... A FEAT HE COULD NEVER PERFORM!

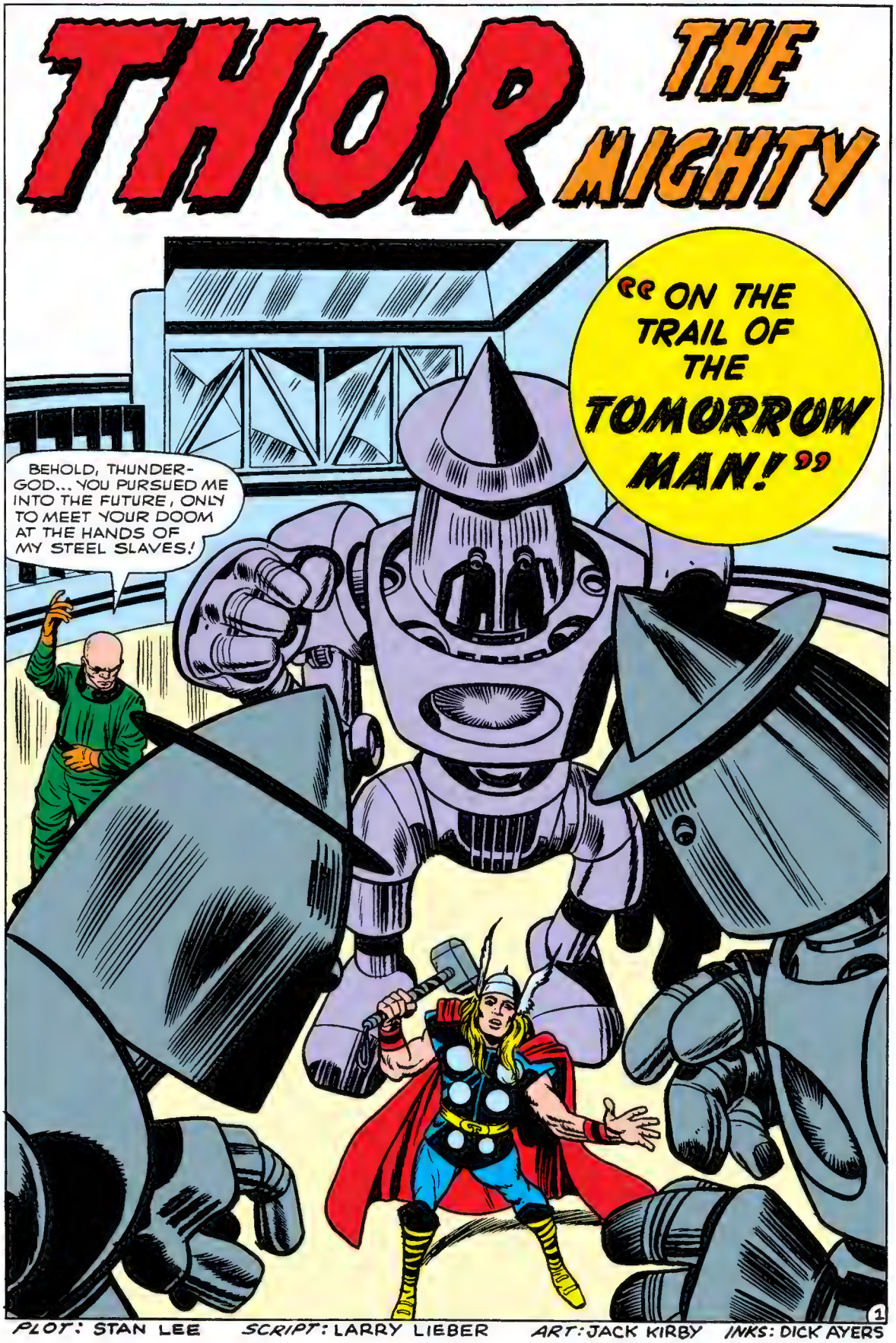
A SHORT TIME LATER...

IMAGINE, THE GOD OF THUNDER--AND THE GOD OF MISCHIEF! BOTH BATTLING HERE ON EARTH, BEFORE OUR EYES!! HOW ROMANTIC! IT MAKES OUR OWN ORDINARY LIVES SEEM SO DULL, DOESN'T IT, DOCTOR BLAKE?

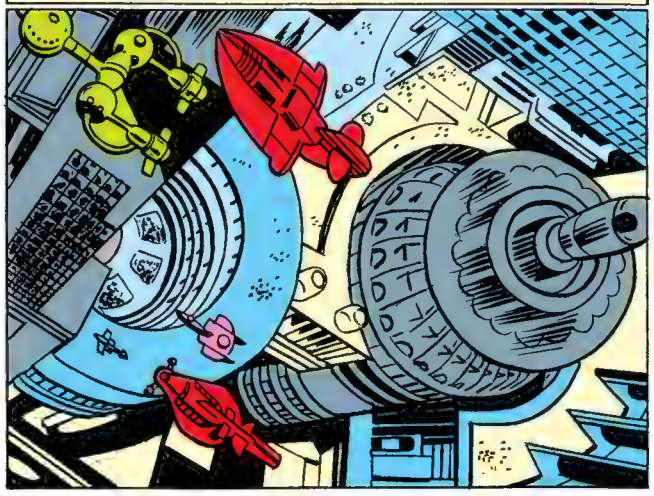
WELL, EH--IT'S ALL IN YOUR POINT OF VIEW!

THE END

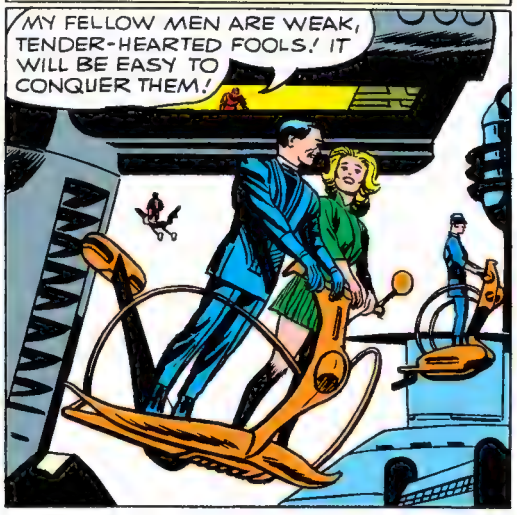
IND.
12¢
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
86 NOV.
STARRING the MIGHTY
THOR!
HOW CAN I DEFEAT THE TOMORROW MAN, WHEN HE CAN FADE INTO A DIFFERENT YEAR BEFORE I CAN REACH HIM??

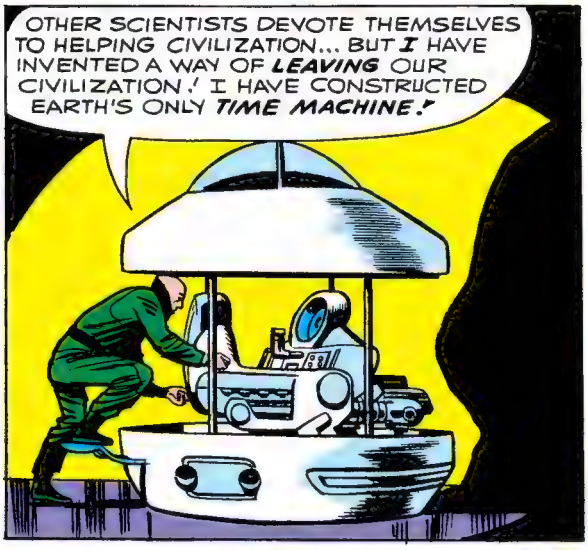

THOR
THE MIGHTY
"ON THE TRAIL OF THE TOMORROW MAN!"
BEHOLD, THUNDER-GOD... YOU PURSUED ME INTO THE FUTURE, ONLY TO MEET YOUR DOOM AT THE HANDS OF MY STEEL SLAVES!
1
PLOT: STAN LEE
SCRIPT: LARRY LIEBER
ART: JACK KIRBY
INKS: DICK AYERS

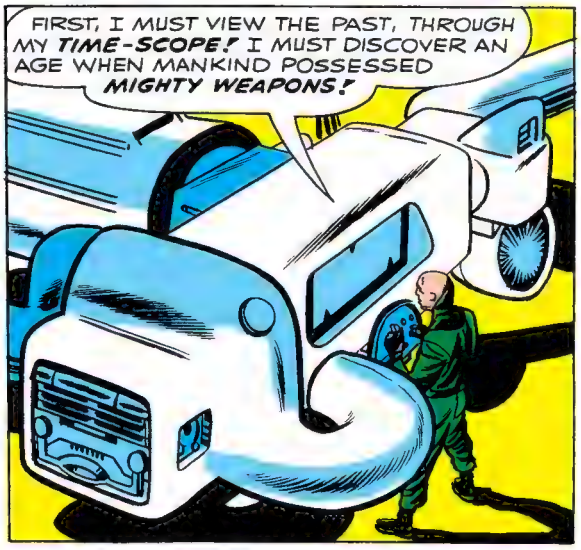
NO, WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING AT IS **NOT** ANOTHER WORLD! IT IS OUR VERY OWN EARTH, **THREE CENTURIES** FROM NOW! MANKIND HAS ABOLISHED WAR AND SCRAPPED ITS WEAPONS! PEACE AND CONTENTMENT PREVAIL THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE...

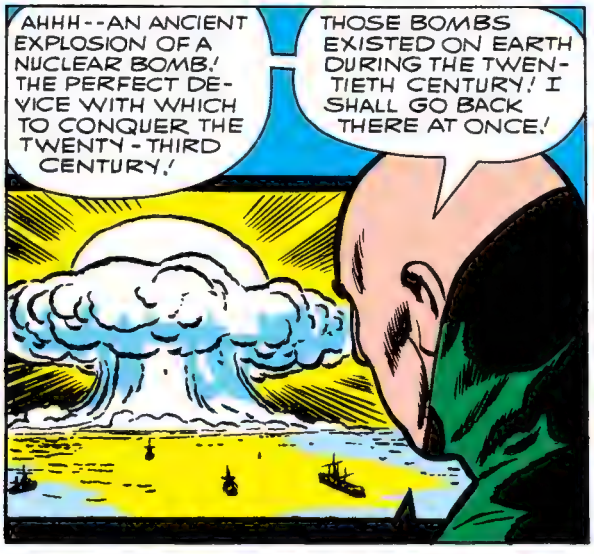


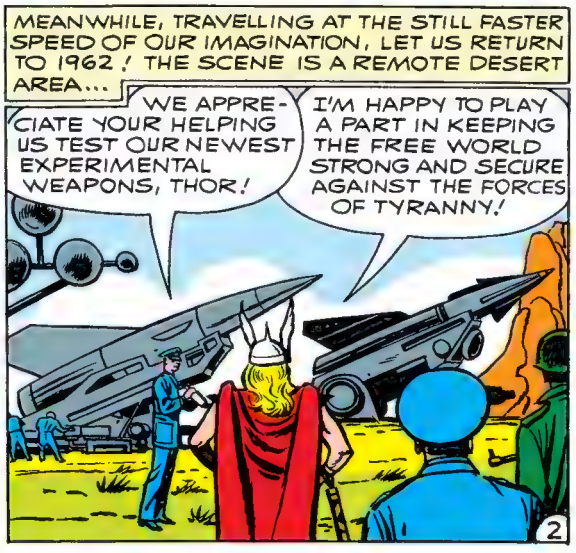
BUT THERE IS ONE WHO IS **NOT** PEACE-LOVING! HE IS A SCIENTIST NAMED ZARRKO... AND WITHIN HIS HEART LURKS AN EVIL AMBITION...



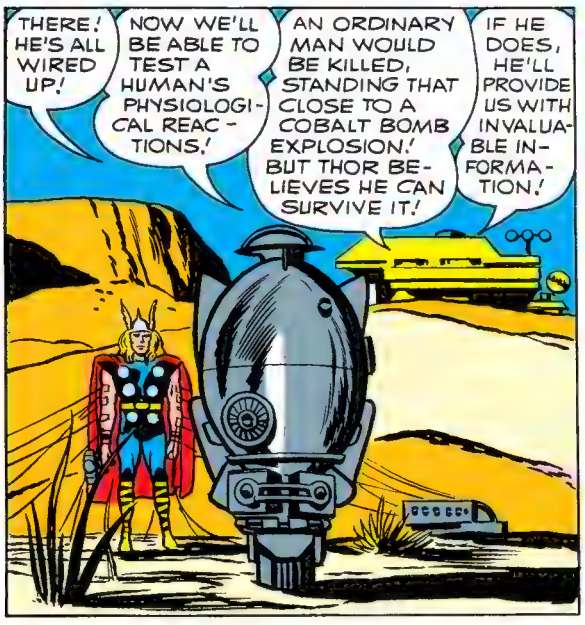

OTHER SCIENTISTS DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO HELPING CIVILIZATION... BUT I HAVE INVENTED A WAY OF **LEAVING** OUR CIVILIZATION! I HAVE CONSTRUCTED EARTH'S ONLY **TIME MACHINE!**

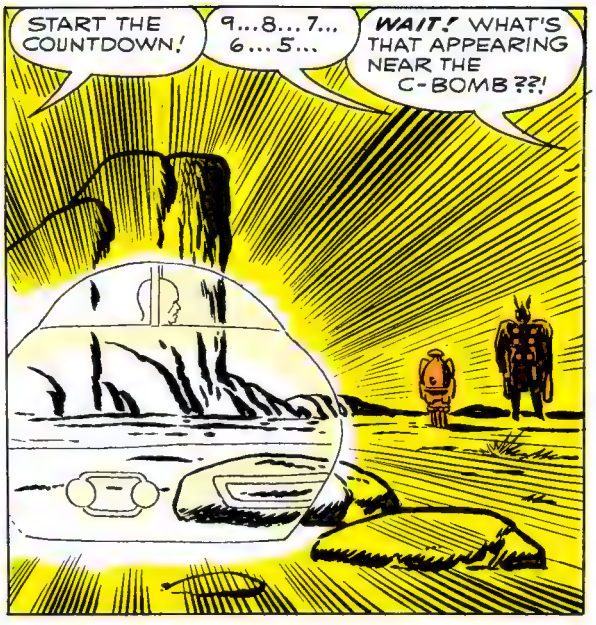


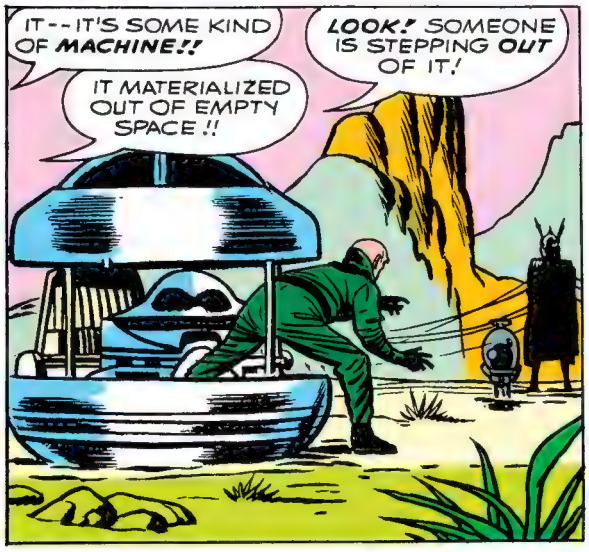

AHHH--AN ANCIENT EXPLOSION OF A NUCLEAR BOMB! THE PERFECT DEVICE WITH WHICH TO CONQUER THE TWENTY-THIRD CENTURY!
THOSE BOMBS EXISTED ON EARTH DURING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY! I SHALL GO BACK THERE AT ONCE!

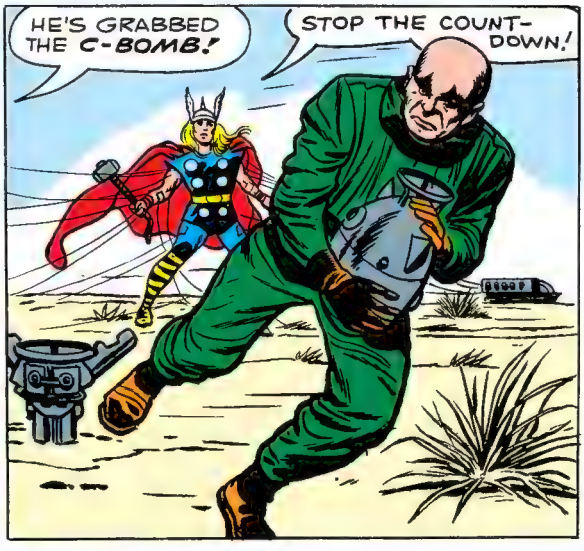

MEANWHILE, TRAVELLING AT THE STILL FASTER SPEED OF OUR IMAGINATION, LET US RETURN TO 1962! THE SCENE IS A REMOTE DESERT AREA...
WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELPING US TEST OUR NEWEST EXPERIMENTAL WEAPONS, THOR!
I'M HAPPY TO PLAY A PART IN KEEPING THE FREE WORLD STRONG AND SECURE AGAINST THE FORCES OF TYRANNY!

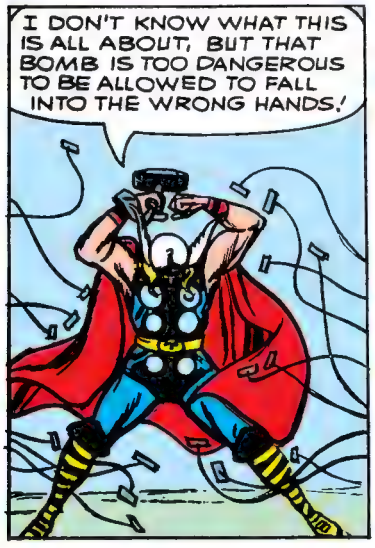
SUDDENLY, WITH A TREMENDOUS ROAR...
THE MISSILE'S BEEN FIRED!
GET READY, THOR...
THERE GOES THE ANTI-MISSILE MISSILE!
AND THERE GOES THOR!!
WITH FANTASTIC SPEED, MAN AND MISSILE SOAR HIGHER AND HIGHER IN PURSUIT OF THE ROCKET...
BUT IT IS THE THUNDER-GOD WHO REACHES THE TARGET FIRST...
THE MISSILES ARE GETTING FASTER! I ALMOST LOST THIS ROCKET!
THOR WAS FASTER THAN THE ANTI-MISSILE MISSILE!
YES, BUT THIS TIME HE BEAT IT ONLY BY AN INSTANT!
USING HIM AS A MEASURING DEVICE, WE'RE ABLE TO CONSTANTLY IMPROVE OUR WEAPONS!
SOON PREPARATIONS ARE MADE FOR ANOTHER TEST...
WE ARE CERTAINLY LUCKY TO HAVE THE SERVICES OF THE MIGHTY THOR!
THIS IS A DIFFERENT TYPE OF TEST! THE MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL!
3

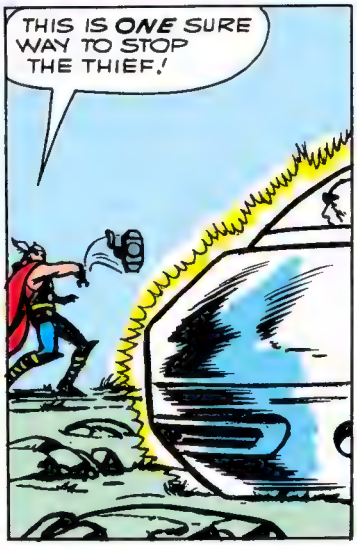

THERE! HE'S ALL WIRED UP!
NOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO TEST A HUMAN'S PHYSIOLOGICAL REACTIONS!
AN ORDINARY MAN WOULD BE KILLED, STANDING THAT CLOSE TO A COBALT BOMB EXPLOSION! BUT THOR BELIEVES HE CAN SURVIVE IT!
IF HE DOES, HE'LL PROVIDE US WITH INVALUABLE INFORMATION!

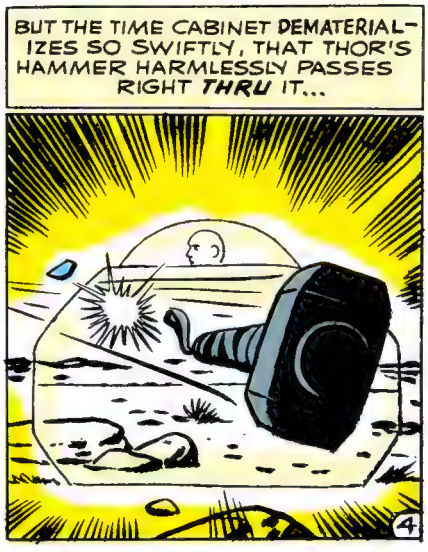

START THE COUNTDOWN!
9...8...7... 6...5...
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT APPEARING NEAR THE C-BOMB??!

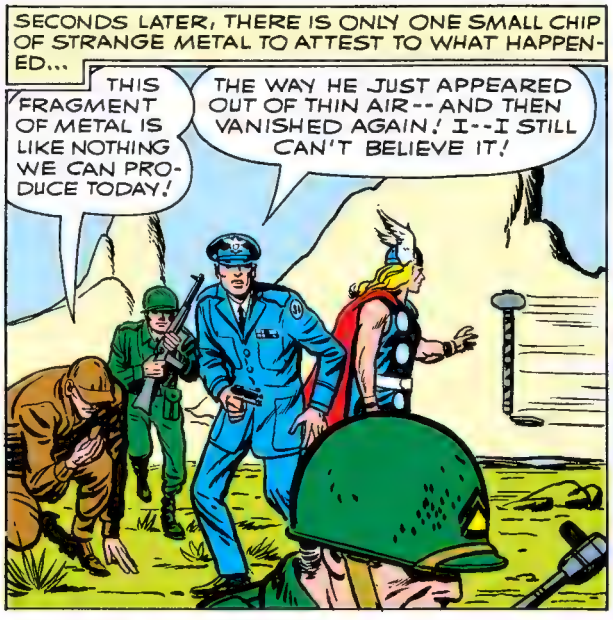

IT--IT'S SOME KIND OF MACHINE!!
IT MATERIALIZED OUT OF EMPTY SPACE!!
LOOK! SOMEONE IS STEPPING OUT OF IT!

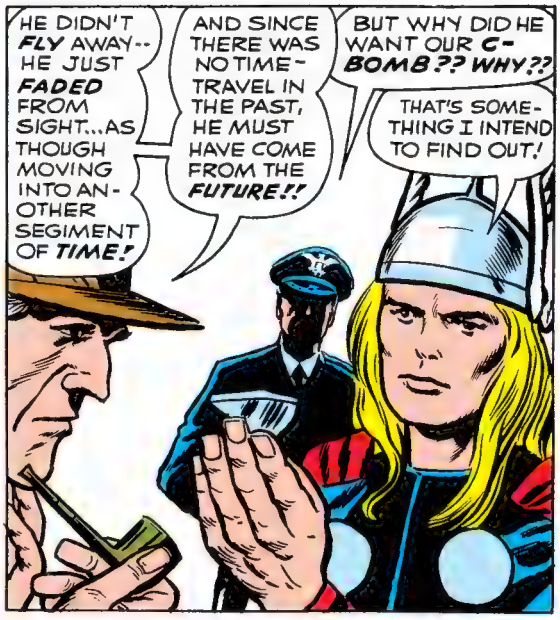

HE'S GRABBED THE C-BOMB!
STOP THE COUNTDOWN!

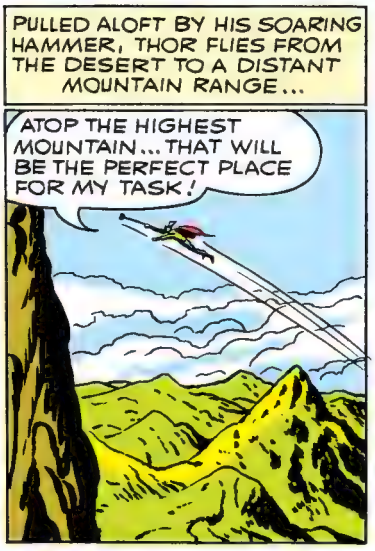

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, BUT THAT BOMB IS TOO DANGEROUS TO BE ALLOWED TO FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS!


THIS IS ONE SURE WAY TO STOP THE THIEF!

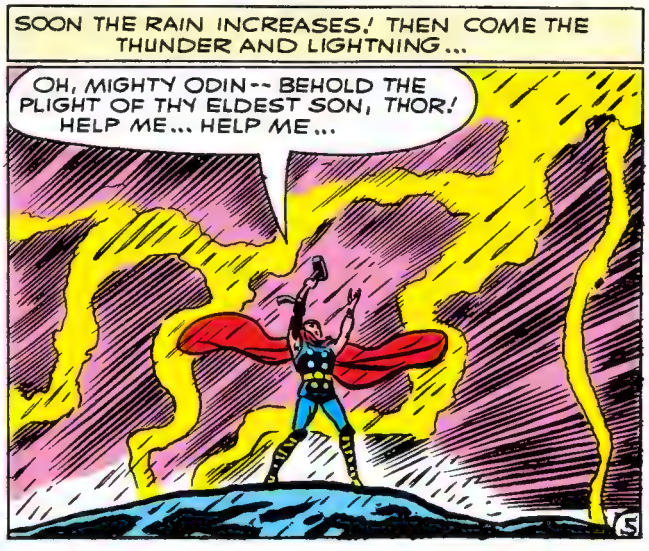

BUT THE TIME CABINET DEMATERIALIZES SO SWIFTLY, THAT THOR'S HAMMER HARMLESSLY PASSES RIGHT THRU IT...


SECONDS LATER, THERE IS ONLY ONE SMALL CHIP OF STRANGE METAL TO ATTEST TO WHAT HAPPENED...
THIS FRAGMENT OF METAL IS LIKE NOTHING WE CAN PRODUCE TODAY!
THE WAY HE JUST APPEARED OUT OF THIN AIR -- AND THEN VANISHED AGAIN! I--I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

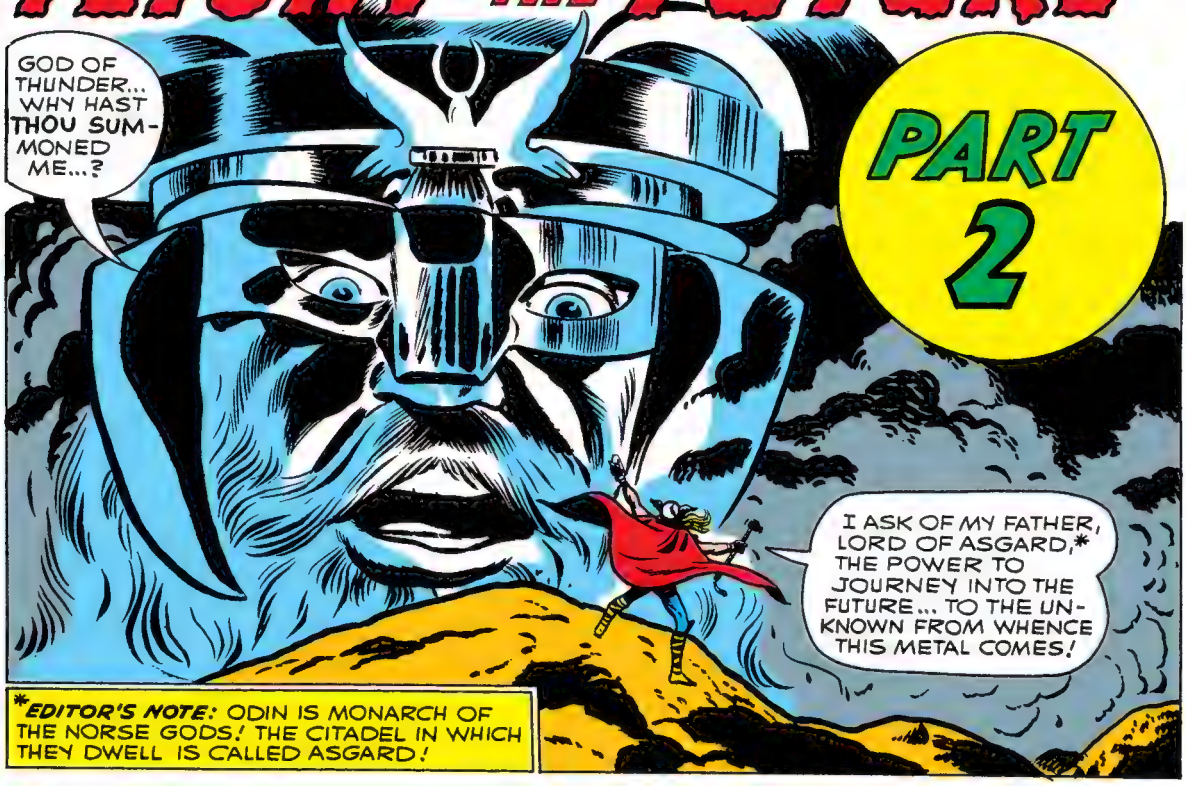

HE DIDN'T FLY AWAY-- HE JUST FADED FROM SIGHT...AS THOUGH MOVING INTO ANOTHER SEGIMENT OF TIME!
AND SINCE THERE WAS NO TIME-TRAVEL IN THE PAST, HE MUST HAVE COME FROM THE FUTURE!!
BUT WHY DID HE WANT OUR C-BOMB?? WHY??
THAT'S SOMETHING I INTEND TO FIND OUT!

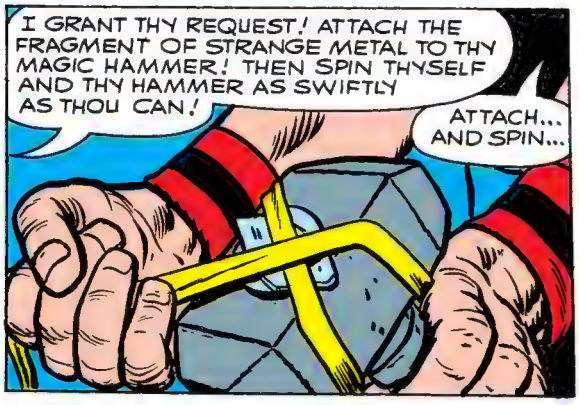

PULLED ALOFT BY HIS SOARING HAMMER, THOR FLIES FROM THE DESERT TO A DISTANT MOUNTAIN RANGE...
ATOP THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN...THAT WILL BE THE PERFECT PLACE FOR MY TASK!

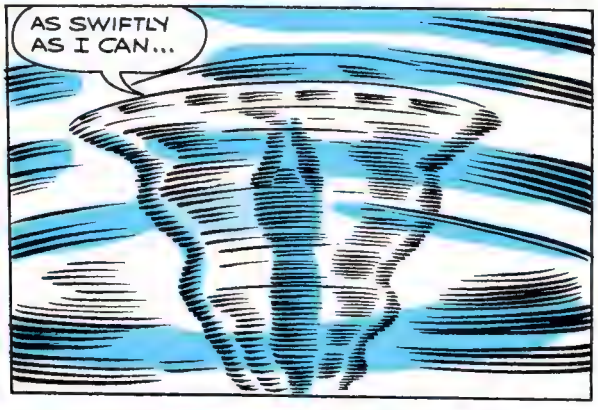
*EDITOR'S NOTE: WHEN THE MAGIC URU HAMMER IS STAMPED TWICE, IT BRINGS ON A THUNDERSTORM!

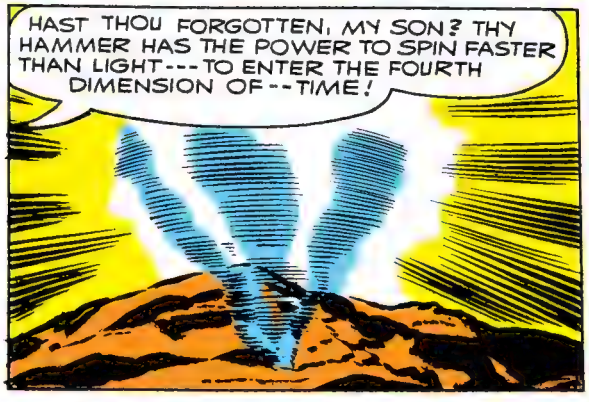

SOON THE RAIN INCREASES! THEN COME THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING...
OH, MIGHTY ODIN -- BEHOLD THE PLIGHT OF THY ELDEST SON, THOR! HELP ME... HELP ME...

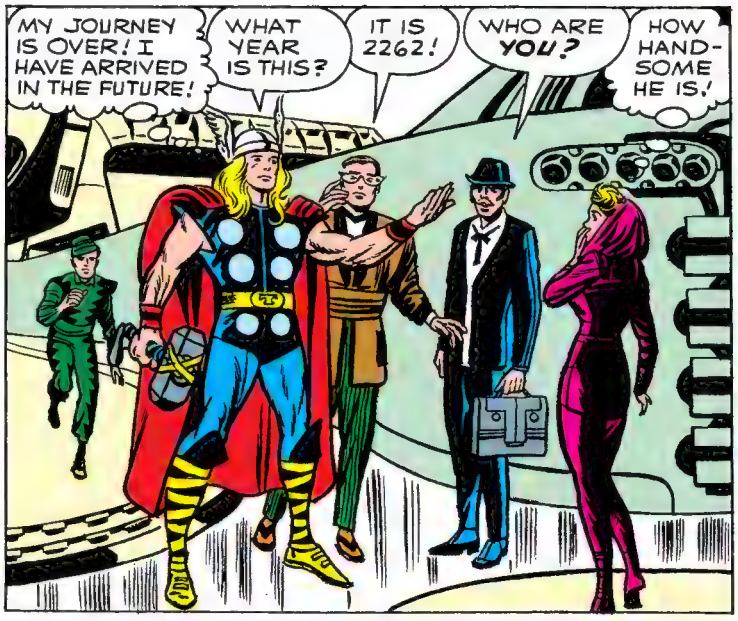
FLIGHT TO THE FUTURE


GOD OF THUNDER... WHY HAST THOU SUMMONED ME...?
PART 2
I ASK OF MY FATHER, LORD OF ASGARD,* THE POWER TO JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE... TO THE UNKNOWN FROM WHENCE THIS METAL COMES!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: ODIN IS MONARCH OF THE NORSE GODS! THE CITADEL IN WHICH THEY DWELL IS CALLED ASGARD!

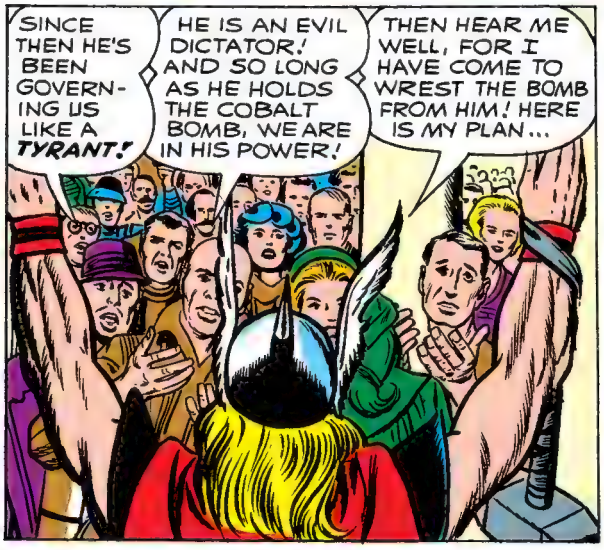

I GRANT THY REQUEST! ATTACH THE FRAGMENT OF STRANGE METAL TO THY MAGIC HAMMER! THEN SPIN THYSELF AND THY HAMMER AS SWIFTLY AS THOU CAN!
ATTACH... AND SPIN...

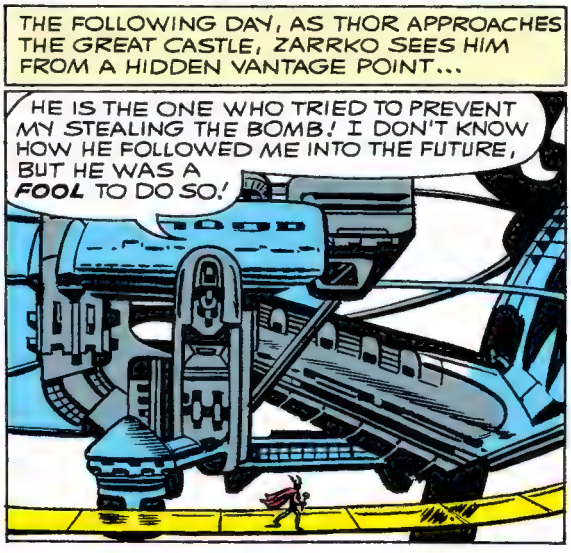




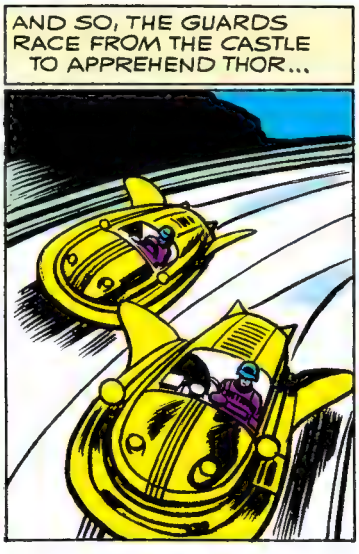

MY JOURNEY IS OVER! I HAVE ARRIVED IN THE FUTURE!
WHAT YEAR IS THIS?
IT IS 2262!
WHO ARE YOU?
HOW HANDSOME HE IS!

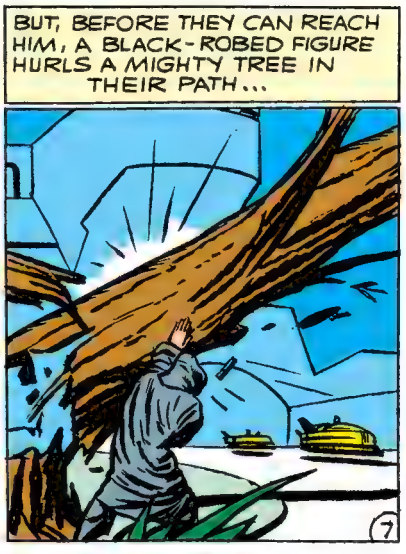
THERE ARE EXPLANATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS, AND THEN...
ZARRKO RETURNED WITH THE COBALT BOMB LAST MONTH!
HE THREATENED TO DESTROY US IF WE DIDN'T MAKE HIM OUR RULER!
WE HAD NO WEAPONS WITH WHICH TO OPPOSE HIM! WE HAD TO OBEY HIS COMMAND!

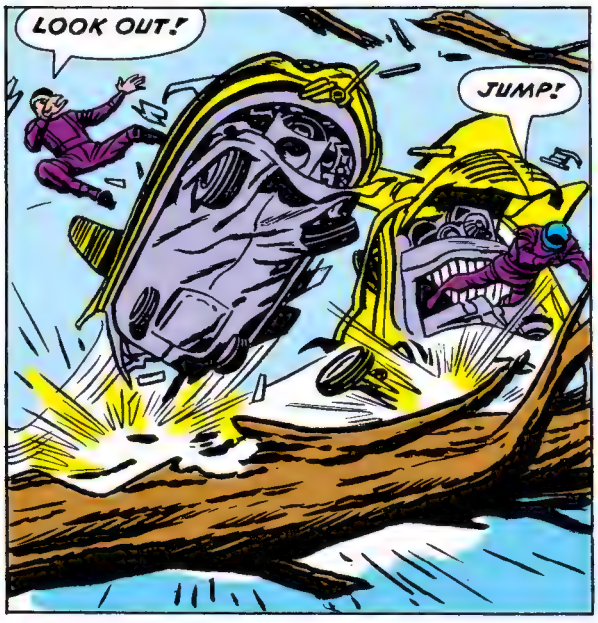

SINCE THEN HE'S BEEN GOVERNING US LIKE A TYRANT!
HE IS AN EVIL DICTATOR! AND SO LONG AS HE HOLDS THE COBALT BOMB, WE ARE IN HIS POWER!
THEN HEAR ME WELL, FOR I HAVE COME TO WREST THE BOMB FROM HIM! HERE IS MY PLAN...


THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS THOR APPROACHES THE GREAT CASTLE, ZARRKO SEES HIM FROM A HIDDEN VANTAGE POINT...
HE IS THE ONE WHO TRIED TO PREVENT MY STEALING THE BOMB! I DON'T KNOW HOW HE FOLLOWED ME INTO THE FUTURE, BUT HE WAS A FOOL TO DO SO!

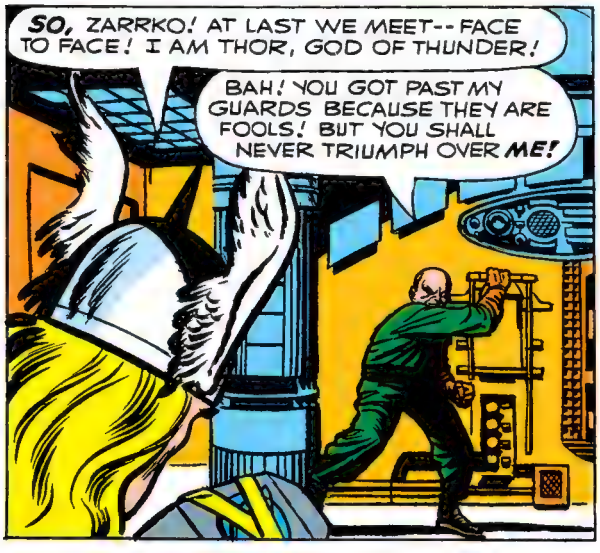
GUARDS--SEIZE THAT MAN!!
SHALL WE OBEY?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE! ZARRKO HOLDS THE ONLY WEAPON ON EARTH! WE DARE NOT DEFY HIM!

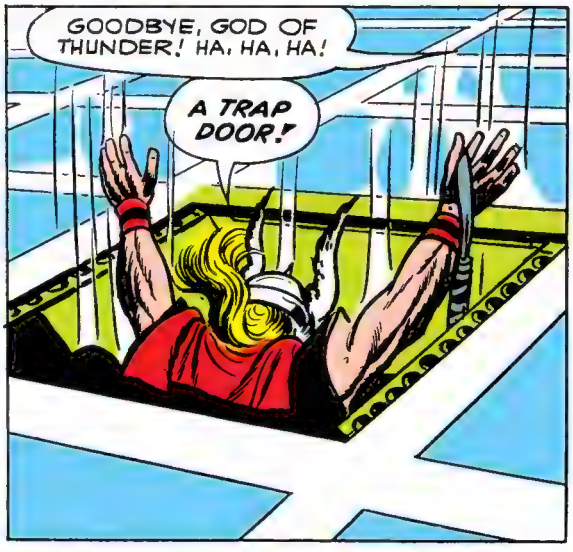

AND SO, THE GUARDS RACE FROM THE CASTLE TO APPREHEND THOR...

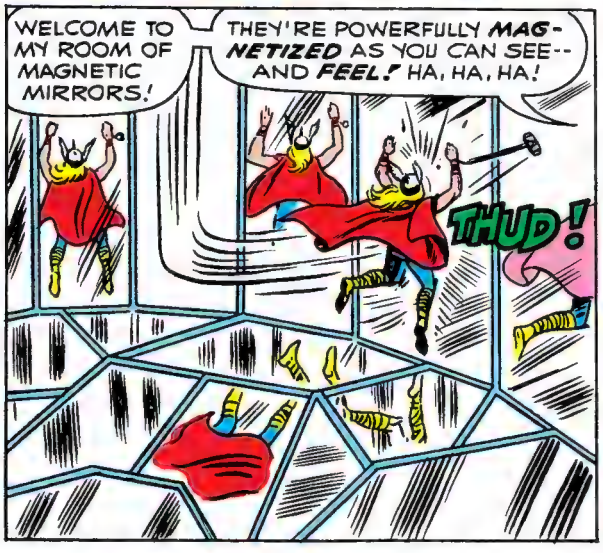

BUT, BEFORE THEY CAN REACH HIM, A BLACK-ROBED FIGURE HURLS A MIGHTY TREE IN THEIR PATH...

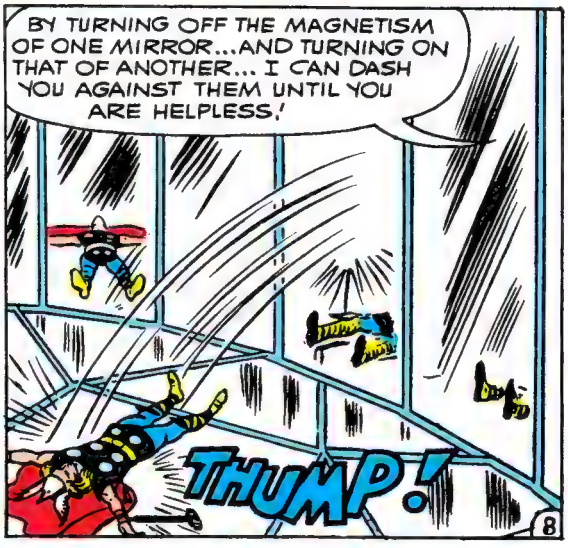

LOOK OUT!
JUMP!

THOR HAS GOTTEN PAST US!! BUT---
BUT WHO IS THE FIGURE FOLLOWING IN THE BLACK ROBE?! AND HOW COULD HE BE STRONG ENOUGH TO PUSH A GIANT OAK IN OUR PATH!


SO, ZARRKO! AT LAST WE MEET--FACE TO FACE! I AM THOR, GOD OF THUNDER!
BAH! YOU GOT PAST MY GUARDS BECAUSE THEY ARE FOOLS! BUT YOU SHALL NEVER TRIUMPH OVER ME!


GOODBYE, GOD OF THUNDER! HA, HA, HA!
A TRAP DOOR!


WELCOME TO MY ROOM OF MAGNETIC MIRRORS!
THEY'RE POWERFULLY MAGNETIZED AS YOU CAN SEE--AND FEEL! HA, HA, HA!
THUD!


BY TURNING OFF THE MAGNETISM OF ONE MIRROR...AND TURNING ON THAT OF ANOTHER... I CAN DASH YOU AGAINST THEM UNTIL YOU ARE HELPLESS!
THUMP!

BUT BEFORE ZARRKO CAN CONTINUE HIS DEADLY GAME...
ANOTHER THOR! BUT HOW...?
THE MAN IN YOUR TRAP WAS A DECOY! I AM THE ONE YOU HAVE TO FEAR! THE ONE WHO SHALL DE-FEAT YOU!!
I AM THE REAL THOR!
WHEW! AND JUST IN TIME, TOO!
SO YOU TRICKED ME! BUT I HAVE OTHER RESOUR-CES, AS YOU SHALL NOW SEE!
NEVER! NOTHING SHALL STOP ME FROM REGAINING THE COBALT BOMB!
FOOL! THIS DELTA-ELECTRON GUN WILL SEND YOU INTO AN-OTHER DIMENSION... FROM WHICH YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE!!
BEFORE THOR CAN HURL HIS HAMMER, HE BE-GINS TO FADE AWAY! BUT THE MIGHTIEST MAN-GOD OF ALL TIME IS NOT WITHOUT RE-SOURCES HIMSELF! HE DRAWS IN A GREAT BREATH, AND THEN HE EXHALES IT, WITH HURRICAN FORCE!!
THE SUPERNATURAL FURY OF THE GALE PIERCES THE DIMENSION-VEIL BEFORE IT CAN BE FULLY CLOSED, AND THOR AGAIN RETURNS TO THE THIRD DIMENSION---AND HIS PURSUIT OF ZARRKO...
STOP, ZARRKO! NO MATTER WHERE YOU RUN, YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE THOR!
9

BUT BEFORE THOR CAN OVERTAKE THE TYRANT FROM TOMORROW, HE ENCOUNTERS ***ANOTHER*** PERIL...

WHA--?

THESE ARE ***GIANT ROBOTS***, THE LABORERS OF THE 23RD CENTURY! I HAVE CONVERTED THEM INTO MY OWN PRIVATE ARMY!

SUDDENLY, A HUGE METALLIC HAND REACHES DOWN AND GRABS THE MAGIC HAMMER...

DISARM HIM!!

WHA...?

IT TOOK ME BY SURPRISE! BUT NOW, WITHOUT THE HAMMER, I'LL ONLY REMAIN AS THOR FOR ANOTHER SIXTY SECONDS! THEN I'LL REVERT BACK TO MY NORMAL HUMAN SELF!

AS DON BLAKE, I'LL BE POWERLESS TO DEFEAT ZARRKO! I MUST REGAIN MY HAMMER WITHIN THE NEXT MINUTE! BUT--***HOW??***

59 SECONDS... 58...57...56...55...54...

THE STRENGTH OF THOR IS STILL MINE FOR THE NEXT 54 SECONDS! I'LL ***USE*** THAT STRENGTH---

---TO RIP UP THE FLOOR WITH MY BARE HANDS!

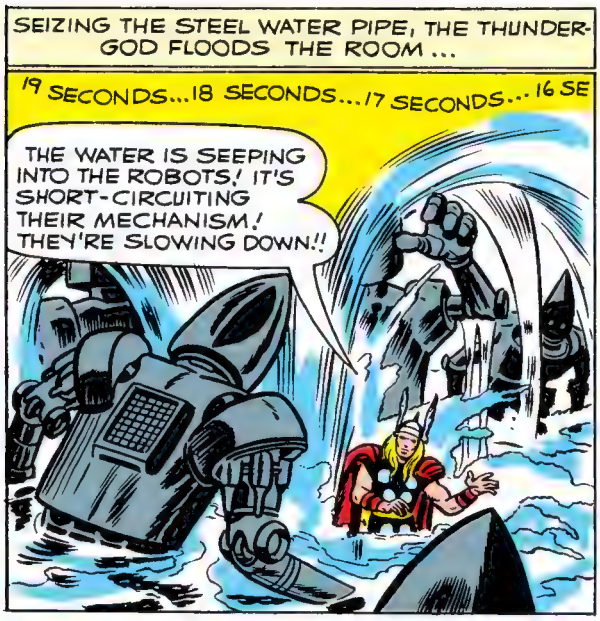
AND WITH EACH PASSING SECOND, THE ROBOTS COME CLOSER... CLOSER...

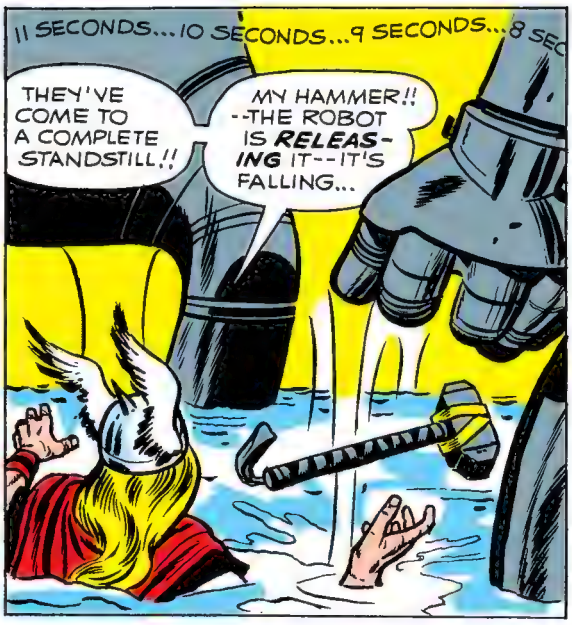
53 SECONDS...52 SECONDS...51 SECONDS...50 SE

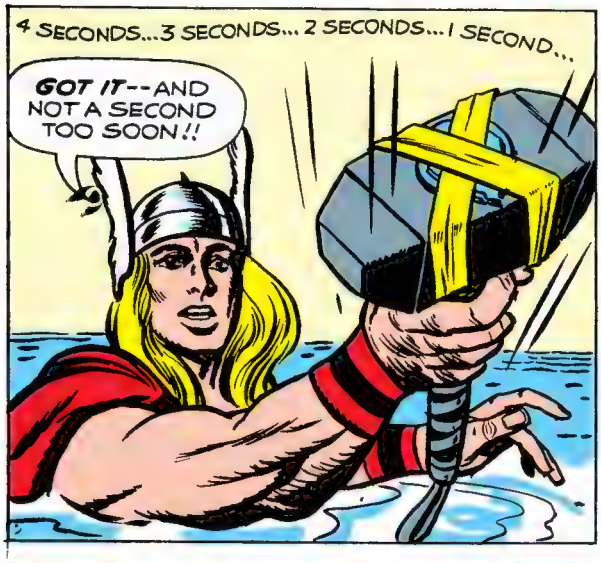
IF I'M LUCKY, I'LL FIND WHAT I NEED BENEATH MY FEET---

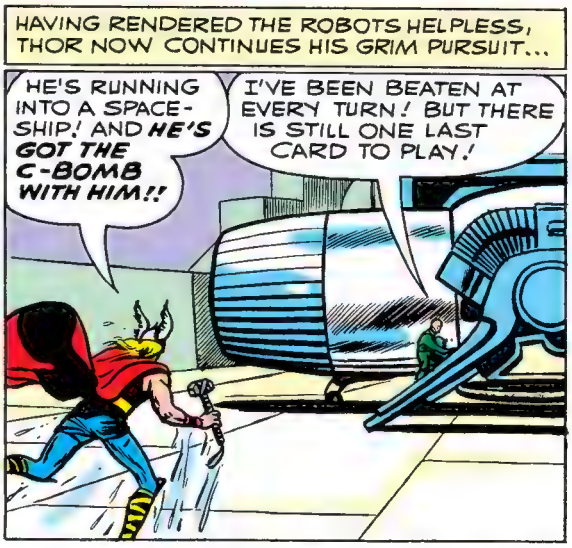
42 SECONDS...41 SECONDS...40 SECONDS...

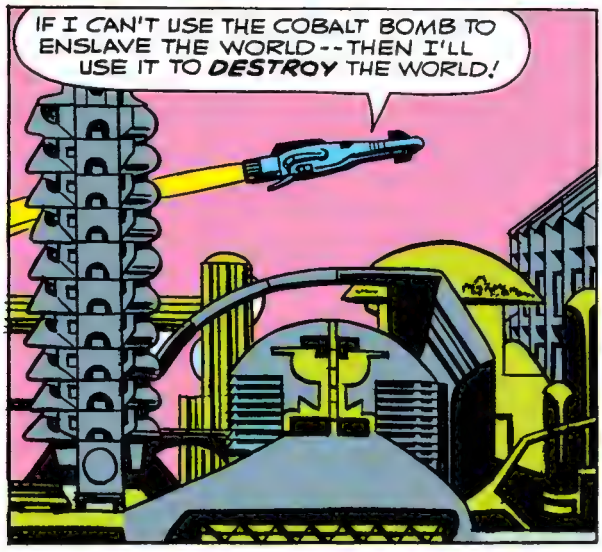
HERE IT IS! ***A WATER PIPE!***

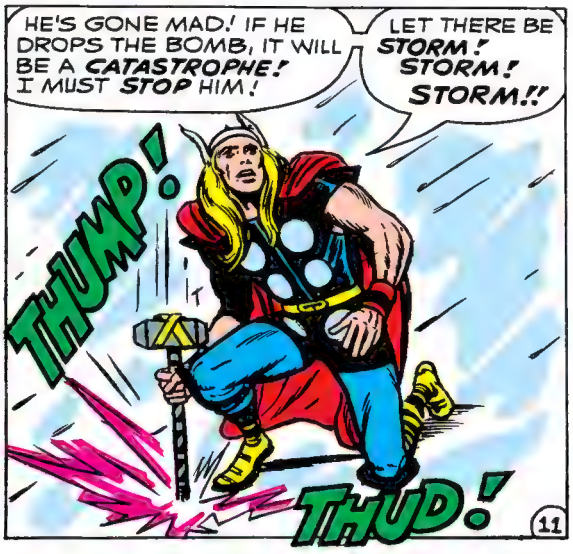

SEIZING THE STEEL WATER PIPE, THE THUNDER-GOD FLOODS THE ROOM ...
19 SECONDS...18 SECONDS...17 SECONDS...16 SE
THE WATER IS SEEPING INTO THE ROBOTS! IT'S SHORT-CIRCUITING THEIR MECHANISM! THEY'RE SLOWING DOWN!!

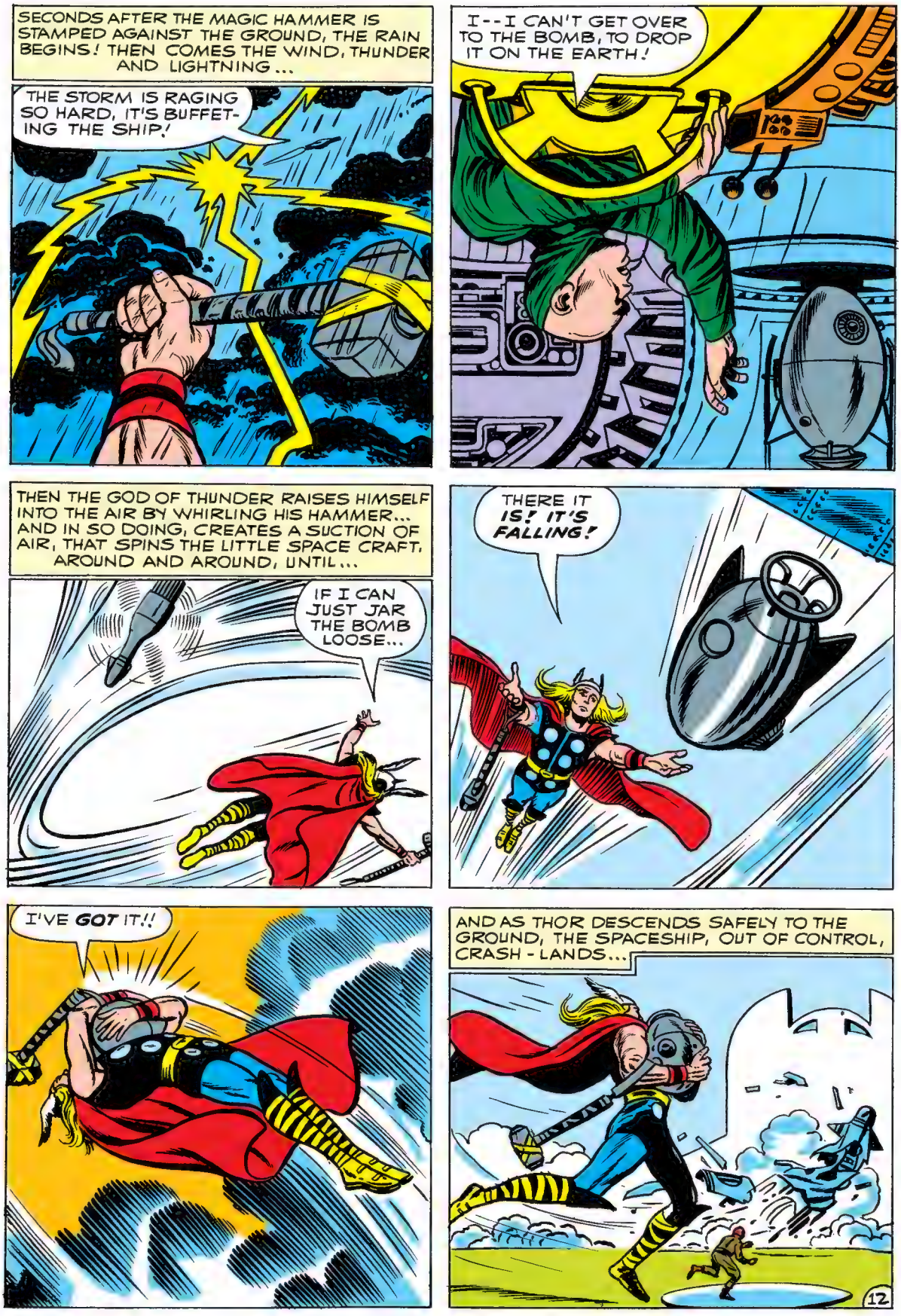

11 SECONDS...10 SECONDS...9 SECONDS...8 SEC
THEY'VE COME TO A COMPLETE STANDSTILL!!
MY HAMMER!! --THE ROBOT IS RELEASING IT--IT'S FALLING...


4 SECONDS...3 SECONDS... 2 SECONDS...1 SECOND...
GOT IT--AND NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!!


HAVING RENDERED THE ROBOTS HELPLESS, THOR NOW CONTINUES HIS GRIM PURSUIT...
HE'S RUNNING INTO A SPACE-SHIP! AND HE'S GOT THE C-BOMB WITH HIM!!
I'VE BEEN BEATEN AT EVERY TURN! BUT THERE IS STILL ONE LAST CARD TO PLAY!


IF I CAN'T USE THE COBALT BOMB TO ENSLAVE THE WORLD--THEN I'LL USE IT TO DESTROY THE WORLD!


HE'S GONE MAD! IF HE DROPS THE BOMB, IT WILL BE A CATASTROPHE! I MUST STOP HIM!
LET THERE BE STORM! STORM! STORM!!
THUMP!
THUD!


SECONDS AFTER THE MAGIC HAMMER IS STAMPED AGAINST THE GROUND, THE RAIN BEGINS! THEN COMES THE WIND, THUNDER AND LIGHTNING...
THE STORM IS RAGING SO HARD, IT'S BUFFETING THE SHIP!
I--I CAN'T GET OVER TO THE BOMB, TO DROP IT ON THE EARTH!
THEN THE GOD OF THUNDER RAISES HIMSELF INTO THE AIR BY WHIRLING HIS HAMMER... AND IN SO DOING, CREATES A SUCTION OF AIR, THAT SPINS THE LITTLE SPACE CRAFT, AROUND AND AROUND, UNTIL...
IF I CAN JUST JAR THE BOMB LOOSE...
THERE IT IS! IT'S FALLING!
I'VE GOT IT!!
AND AS THOR DESCENDS SAFELY TO THE GROUND, THE SPACESHIP, OUT OF CONTROL, CRASH - LANDS...
12

AND, THOUGH ZARRKO EMERGES FROM THE WRECKAGE STILL ALIVE...

WHO--WHO AM I ?? WHAT AM I DOING HERE...??

WE'LL BE ABLE TO CURE HIS PHYSICAL INJURIES!

BUT HIS MEMORY WILL NEVER RETURN!

YOU DEFEATED A TYRANT! AND YOU SAVED OUR WORLD FROM DESTRUCTION!

WE SHALL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL!

LONG LIVE THE MIGHTY THOR!

NOW I MUST RETURN THE C-BOMB TO MY OWN TIME!

ONCE AGAIN THOR WHIRLS HIS LEGENDARY HAMMER AT UNIMAGINABLE SPEED, AS TIME ITSELF IS BENT TO THE THUNDER-GOD'S WILL!

2053
2015
2000
198
1974
1962

SOON THE YEAR IS 1962 AND THE PLACE IS THE NEW MEXICAN DESERT...

YOU HAVE YOUR BOMB BACK! LET US MENTION IT NO MORE! YOU WOULD NEVER BELIEVE MY TALE!

MAYBE NOT! BUT WE'D ***STILL*** LIKE TO KNOW WHERE IT WAS--AND HOW YOU BROUGHT IT BACK!

FORGET IT, BOB! WE'VE GOT SOME WEAPONS TESTS TO PERFORM NOW!

A SHORT TIME LATER, AFTER THOR HAS TURNED BACK TO ***THE QUIET*** DR. DON BLAKE...

ANYTHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS GONE, JANE?

ARE YOU ***KIDDING***, DOCTOR? DON'T YOU READ THE PAPERS?!

THOR RESCUES C-BOMB

SURVIVES EXPLOSION

13

NO, JANE! NOTHING IN THE PAPERS INTERESTS ME... IT'S ALL TOO NERVE-WRACKING!

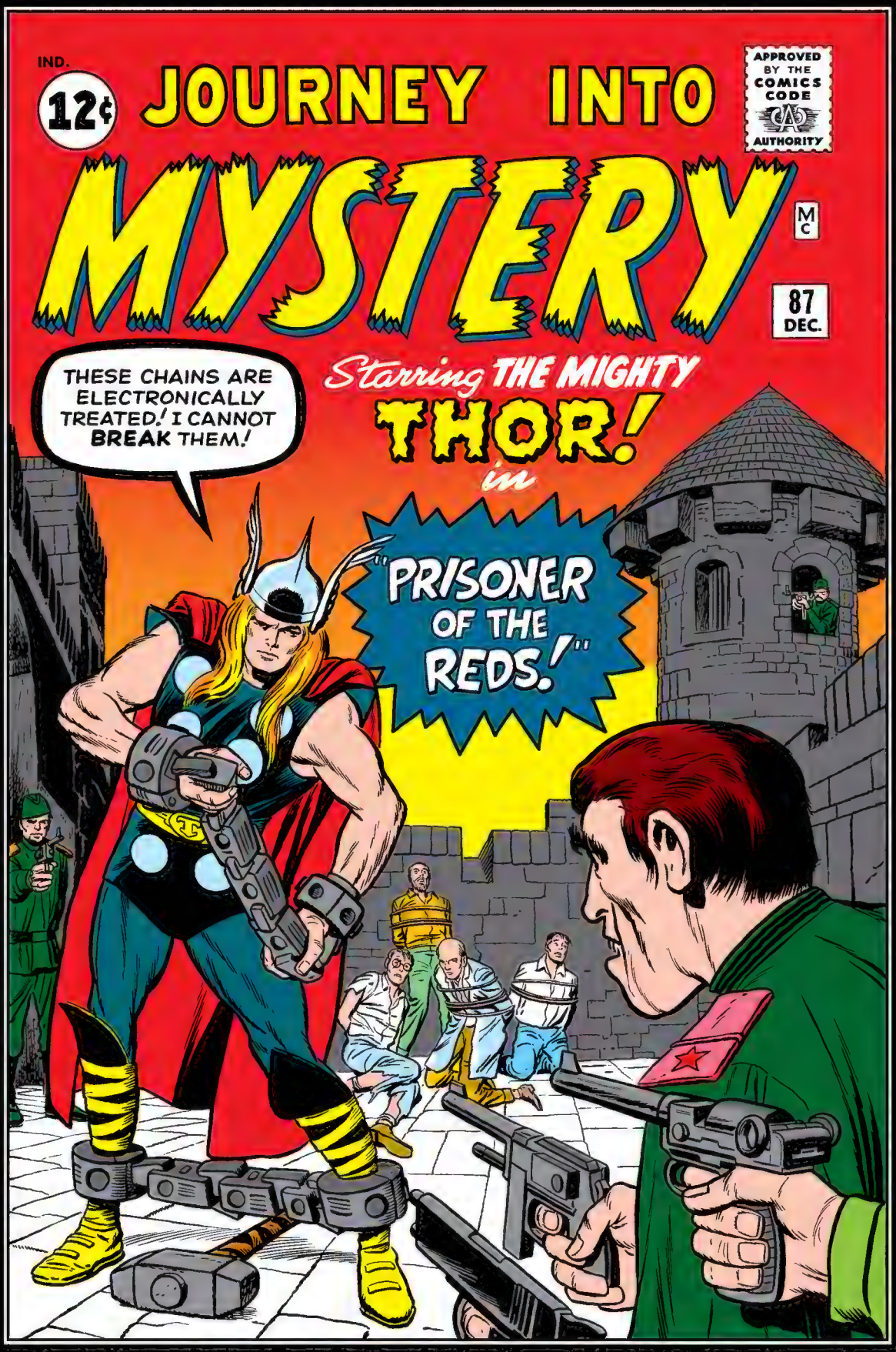
OH, IF ONLY I COULD WORK FOR ***THOR***--INSTEAD OF COLORLESS DR. BLAKE!

PRIV

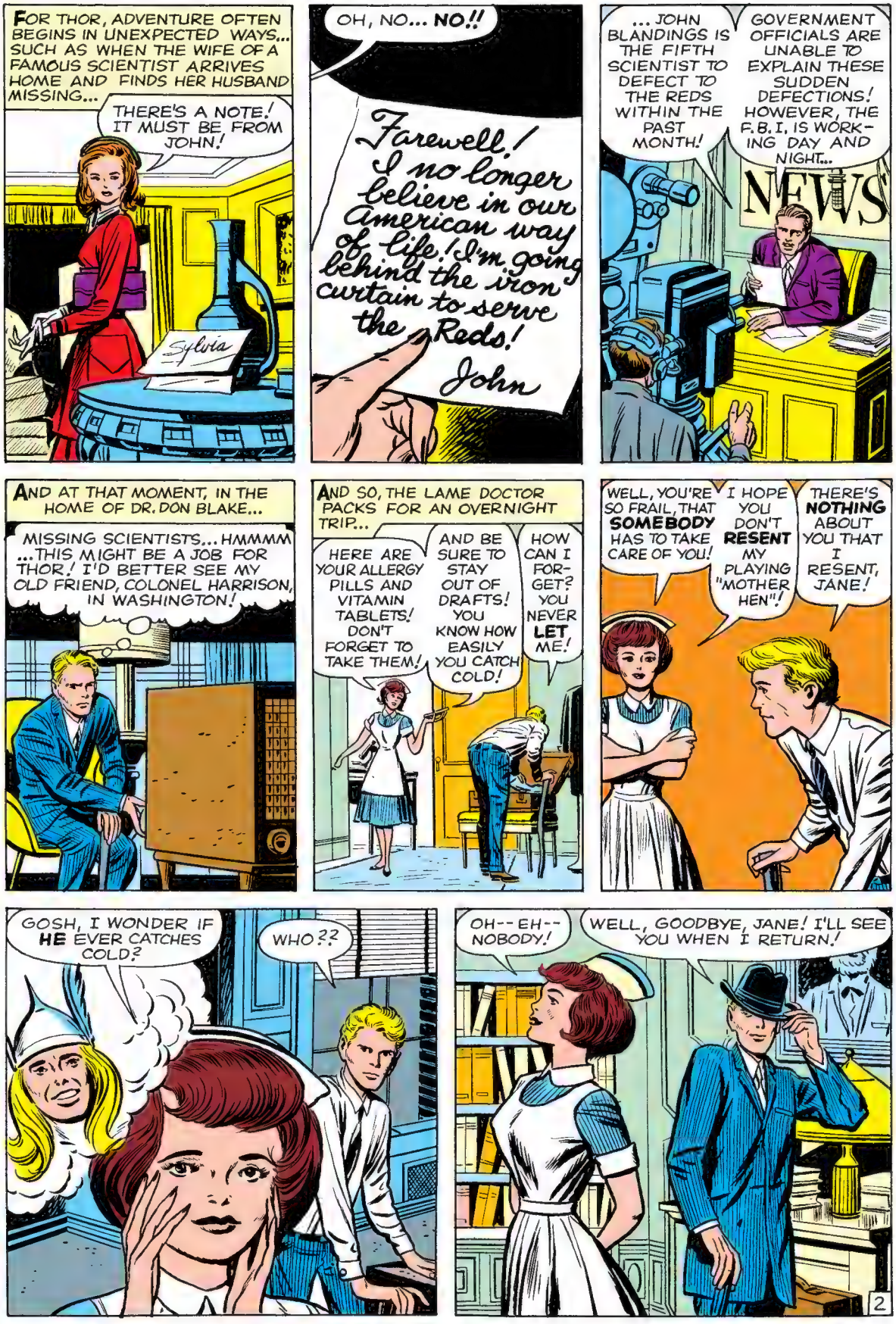
I WONDER IF JANE WILL EVER SUSPECT THAT SOME OF US ***READ*** ABOUT THE NEWS...

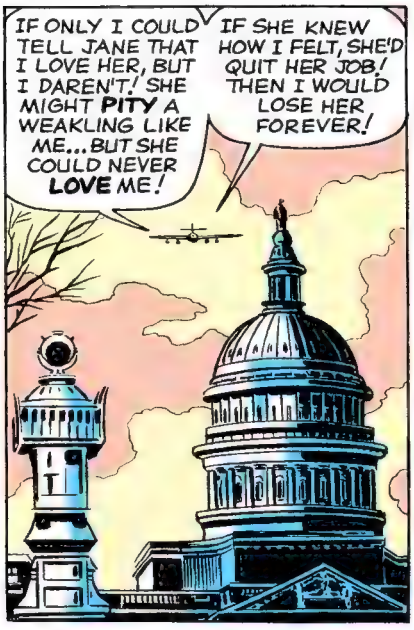
... WHILE SOME OF US ARE TOO BUSY ***MAKING*** IT!

THE END


IND.
12¢
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
87 DEC.
THESE CHAINS ARE ELECTRONICALLY TREATED! I CANNOT BREAK THEM!
Starring THE MIGHTY THOR!
in
"PRISONER OF THE REDS!"

THE MIGHTY THOR!
"PRISONER OF THE REDS!"
BEHOLD, GOD OF THUNDER--MANY HAVE FOUGHT YOU! BUT ONLY I HAVE DEFEATED YOU!
PLOT: STAN LEE • SCRIPT: LARRY LIEBER
ART: JACK KIRBY • INKING: DICK AYERS
LETTERING: ART SIMEK
V-947
1.

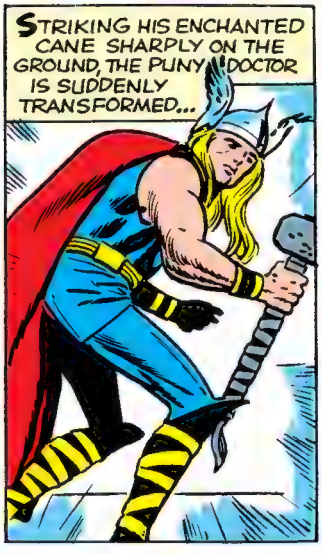

FOR THOR, ADVENTURE OFTEN BEGINS IN UNEXPECTED WAYS... SUCH AS WHEN THE WIFE OF A FAMOUS SCIENTIST ARRIVES HOME AND FINDS HER HUSBAND MISSING...
THERE'S A NOTE! IT MUST BE FROM JOHN!
Sylvia
OH, NO... NO!!
Farewell! I no longer believe in our American way of life! I'm going behind the iron curtain to serve the Reds!
John
... JOHN BLANDINGS IS THE FIFTH SCIENTIST TO DEFECT TO THE REDS WITHIN THE PAST MONTH!
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THESE SUDDEN DEFECTIONS! HOWEVER, THE F.B.I. IS WORKING DAY AND NIGHT...
NEWS
AND AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE HOME OF DR. DON BLAKE...
MISSING SCIENTISTS... HMMMM ...THIS MIGHT BE A JOB FOR THOR! I'D BETTER SEE MY OLD FRIEND, COLONEL HARRISON, IN WASHINGTON!
AND SO, THE LAME DOCTOR PACKS FOR AN OVERNIGHT TRIP...
HERE ARE YOUR ALLERGY PILLS AND VITAMIN TABLETS! DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THEM!
AND BE SURE TO STAY OUT OF DRAFTS! YOU KNOW HOW EASILY YOU CATCH COLD!
HOW CAN I FORGET? YOU NEVER LET ME!
WELL, YOU'RE SO FRAIL, THAT SOMEBODY HAS TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!
I HOPE YOU DON'T RESENT MY PLAYING "MOTHER HEN"!
THERE'S NOTHING ABOUT YOU THAT I RESENT, JANE!
GOSH, I WONDER IF HE EVER CATCHES COLD?
WHO??
OH--EH--NOBODY!
WELL, GOODBYE, JANE! I'LL SEE YOU WHEN I RETURN!
2

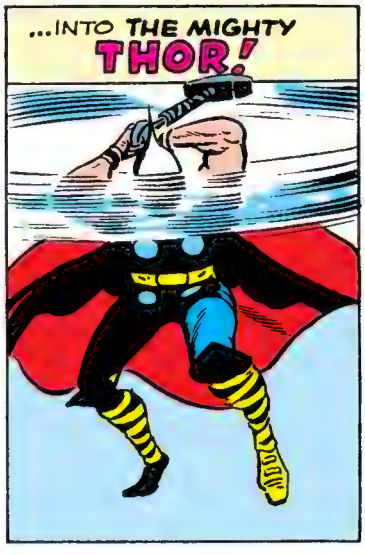

IF ONLY I COULD TELL JANE THAT I LOVE HER, BUT I DAREN'T! SHE MIGHT PITY A WEAKLING LIKE ME... BUT SHE COULD NEVER LOVE ME!
IF SHE KNEW HOW I FELT, SHE'D QUIT HER JOB! THEN I WOULD LOSE HER FOREVER!

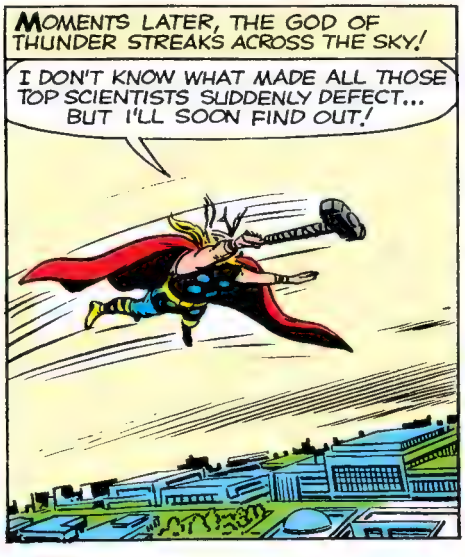
SOON, DON BLAKE IS IN THE OFFICE OF COLONEL EDWARD HARRISON, U.S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE...
I WANT TO SET MYSELF UP AS BAIT BY CLAIMING THAT I'VE INVENTED A NEW WEAPON IN BIOLOGICAL WARFARE! MAYBE THEN I CAN LEARN HOW THE REDS ARE MAKING OUR SCIENTISTS DEFECT!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, DON?

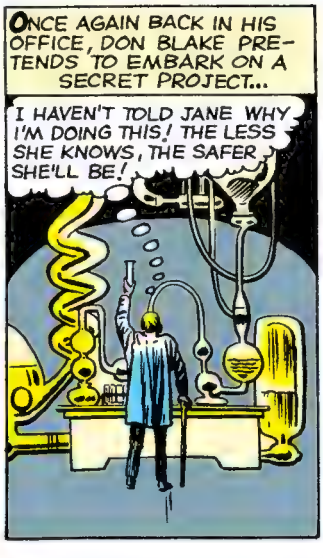
CAN'T TELL HIM THAT I'M REALLY THOR! MUST MAKE UP A CONVINCING STORY!
MY BUM LEG KEPT ME OUT OF THE KOREAN WAR ...AND WELL, THIS IS MY CHANCE TO MAKE UP FOR IT-- TO SERVE MY COUNTRY!
OKAY, I'LL BUY YOUR PLAN!

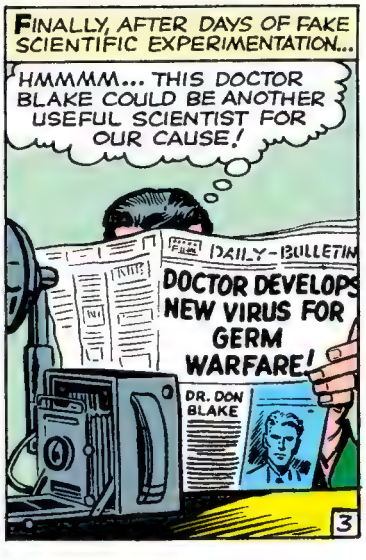
LATER, IN A LONELY ALLEYWAY...
NOW TO GET HOME, THE FASTEST WAY POSSIBLE!
CRACK!

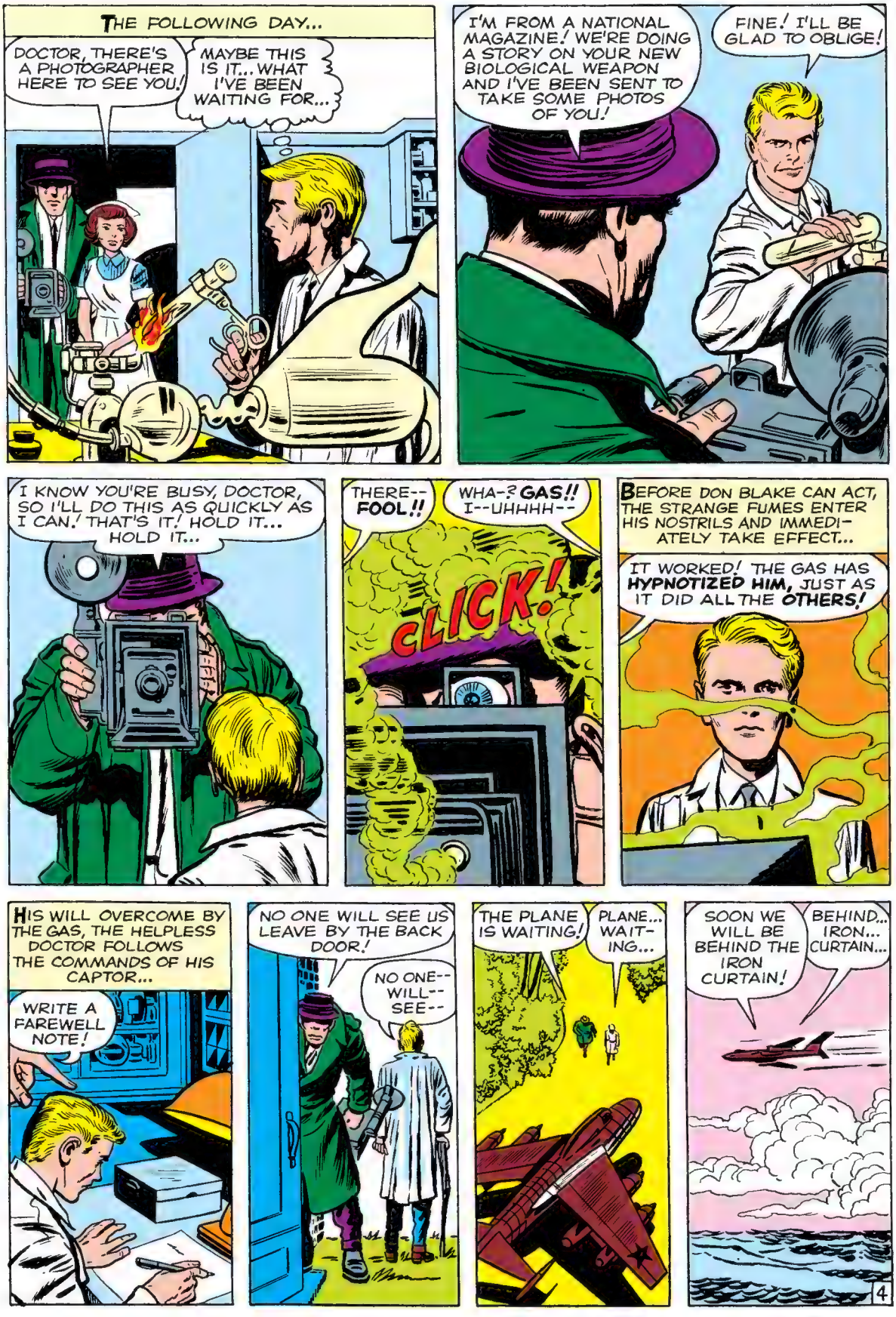

STRIKING HIS ENCHANTED CANE SHARPLY ON THE GROUND, THE PUNY DOCTOR IS SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED...


...INTO THE MIGHTY THOR!

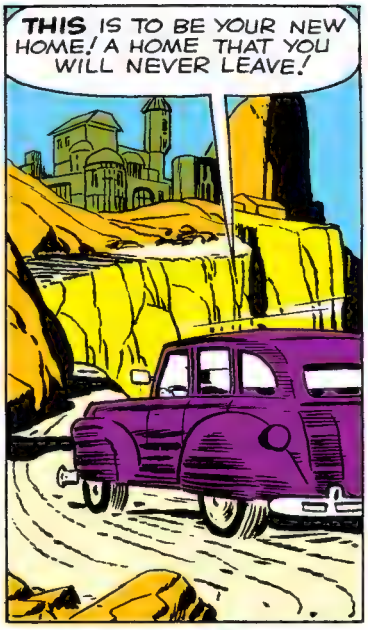

MOMENTS LATER, THE GOD OF THUNDER STREAKS ACROSS THE SKY!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MADE ALL THOSE TOP SCIENTISTS SUDDENLY DEFECT... BUT I'LL SOON FIND OUT!

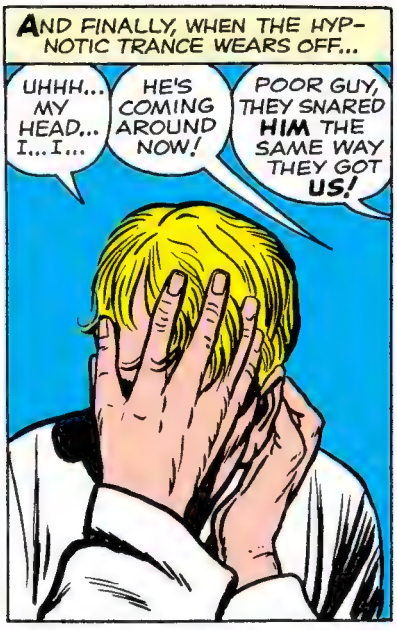

ONCE AGAIN BACK IN HIS OFFICE, DON BLAKE PRETENDS TO EMBARK ON A SECRET PROJECT...
I HAVEN'T TOLD JANE WHY I'M DOING THIS! THE LESS SHE KNOWS, THE SAFER SHE'LL BE!

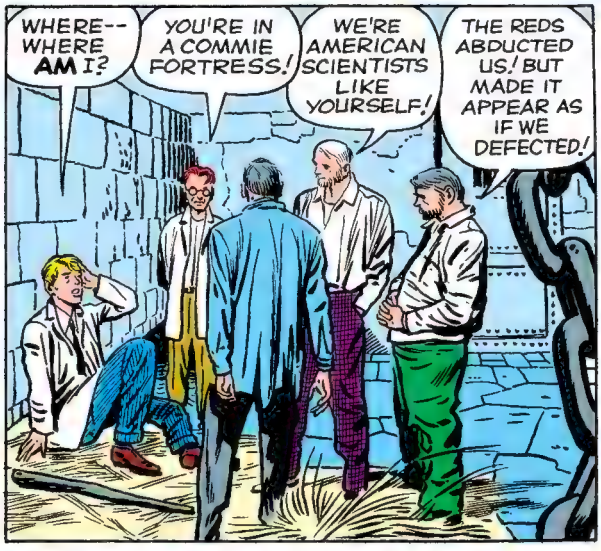

FINALLY, AFTER DAYS OF FAKE SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTATION...
HMMMM... THIS DOCTOR BLAKE COULD BE ANOTHER USEFUL SCIENTIST FOR OUR CAUSE!
DAILY-BULLETIN
DOCTOR DEVELOPS NEW VIRUS FOR GERM WARFARE!
DR. DON BLAKE

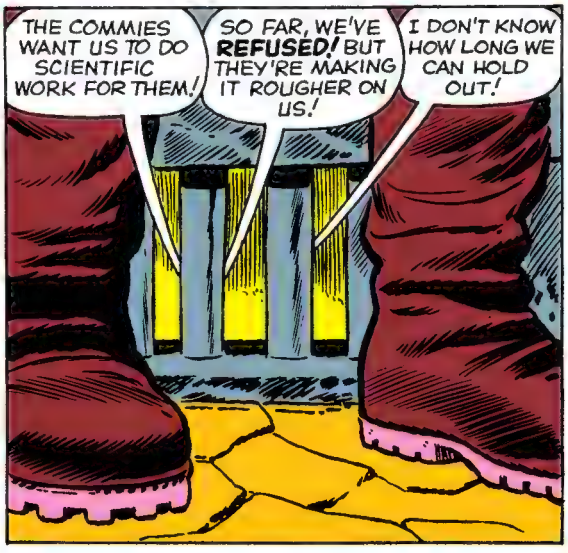

THE FOLLOWING DAY...
DOCTOR, THERE'S A PHOTOGRAPHER HERE TO SEE YOU!
MAYBE THIS IS IT... WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...
I'M FROM A NATIONAL MAGAZINE! WE'RE DOING A STORY ON YOUR NEW BIOLOGICAL WEAPON AND I'VE BEEN SENT TO TAKE SOME PHOTOS OF YOU!
FINE! I'LL BE GLAD TO OBLIGE!
I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY, DOCTOR, SO I'LL DO THIS AS QUICKLY AS I CAN. THAT'S IT! HOLD IT... HOLD IT...
THERE-- FOOL!!
WHA-? GAS!! I--UHHHH--
CLICK!
BEFORE DON BLAKE CAN ACT, THE STRANGE FUMES ENTER HIS NOSTRILS AND IMMEDIATELY TAKE EFFECT...
IT WORKED! THE GAS HAS HYPNOTIZED HIM, JUST AS IT DID ALL THE OTHERS!
HIS WILL OVERCOME BY THE GAS, THE HELPLESS DOCTOR FOLLOWS THE COMMANDS OF HIS CAPTOR...
WRITE A FAREWELL NOTE!
NO ONE WILL SEE US LEAVE BY THE BACK DOOR!
NO ONE-- WILL-- SEE--
THE PLANE IS WAITING!
PLANE... WAITING...
SOON WE WILL BE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN!
BEHIND... IRON... CURTAIN...
4

SEVERAL JET HOURS LATER...
TOO BAD YOU DO NOT REALIZE WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU! BUT YOU WILL KNOW SOON ENOUGH!


THIS IS TO BE YOUR NEW HOME! A HOME THAT YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE!


AND FINALLY, WHEN THE HYPNOTIC TRANCE WEARS OFF...
UHHH... MY HEAD... I... I...
HE'S COMING AROUND NOW!
POOR GUY, THEY SNARED HIM THE SAME WAY THEY GOT US!

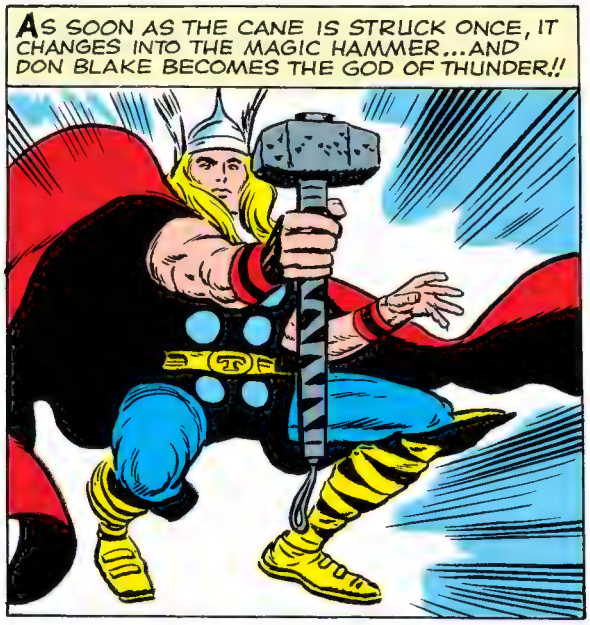

WHERE-- WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE IN A COMMIE FORTRESS!
WE'RE AMERICAN SCIENTISTS LIKE YOURSELF!
THE REDS ABDUCTED US! BUT MADE IT APPEAR AS IF WE DEFECTED!


THE COMMIES WANT US TO DO SCIENTIFIC WORK FOR THEM!
SO FAR, WE'VE REFUSED! BUT THEY'RE MAKING IT ROUGHER ON US!
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE CAN HOLD OUT!

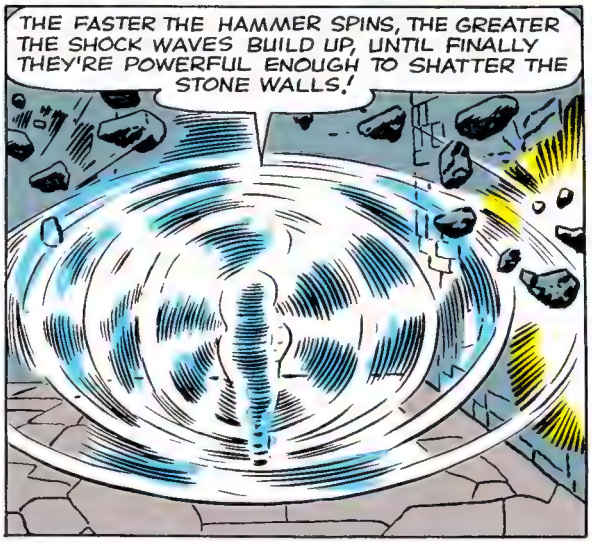
I SEE...
NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO CHANGE INTO THOR! BUT IF I DO, THESE MEN WILL SEE ME! MY SECRET IDENTITY WILL BE REVEALED! I MUST THINK OF SOME WAY...

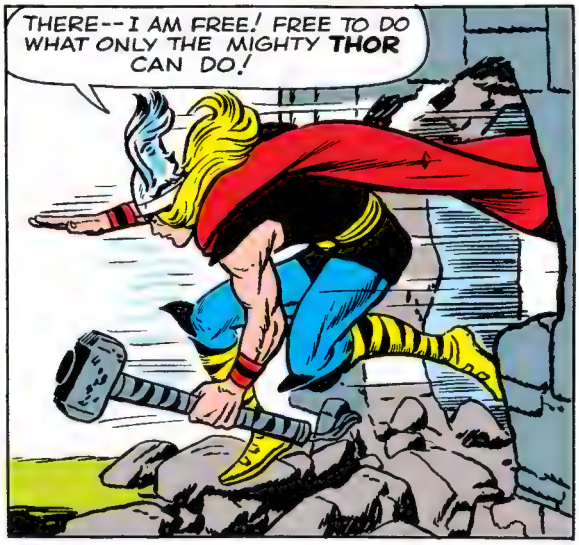
SUDDENLY, THE DUNGEON DOOR OPENS, AND SOME OMINOUS FIGURES ENTER...
WE ARE PLACING YOU IN SEPARATE CELLS! MOVE!
THERE IS PSYCHOLOGICAL STRENGTH IN UNITY! ALONE, YOU WILL BE LESS ABLE TO RESIST OUR "PERSUASION!"

THEN, AS SOON AS DON BLAKE IS ALONE IN A CELL...
THEY SOLVED MY PROBLEM FOR ME! NOW TO LET THE REDS FACE THE FURY OF-- THOR!!
KA-RACK!

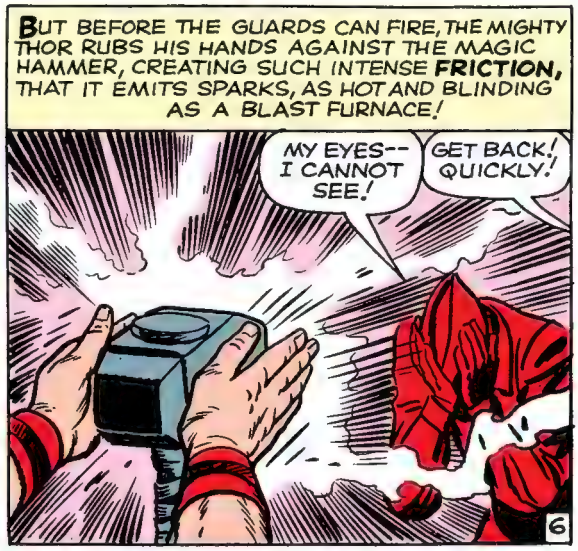

AS SOON AS THE CANE IS STRUCK ONCE, IT CHANGES INTO THE MAGIC HAMMER...AND DON BLAKE BECOMES THE GOD OF THUNDER!!

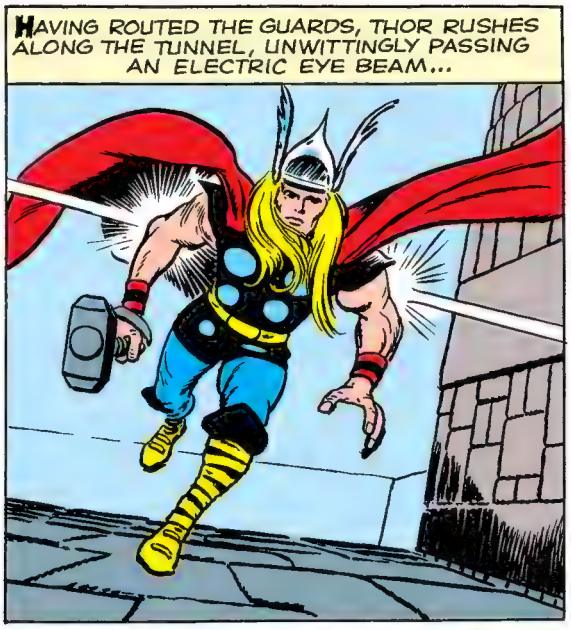
I'LL BREAK OUT OF HERE BY SPINNING MY HAMMER FAST ENOUGH TO CREATE SHOCK WAVES...

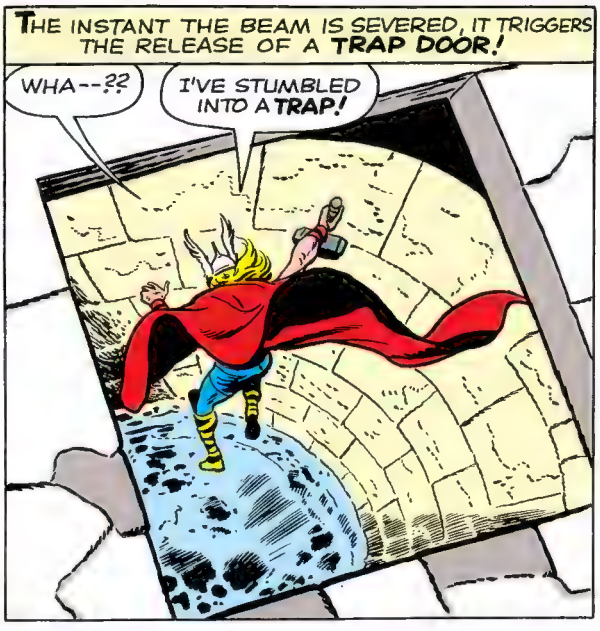

THE FASTER THE HAMMER SPINS, THE GREATER THE SHOCK WAVES BUILD UP, UNTIL FINALLY THEY'RE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SHATTER THE STONE WALLS!

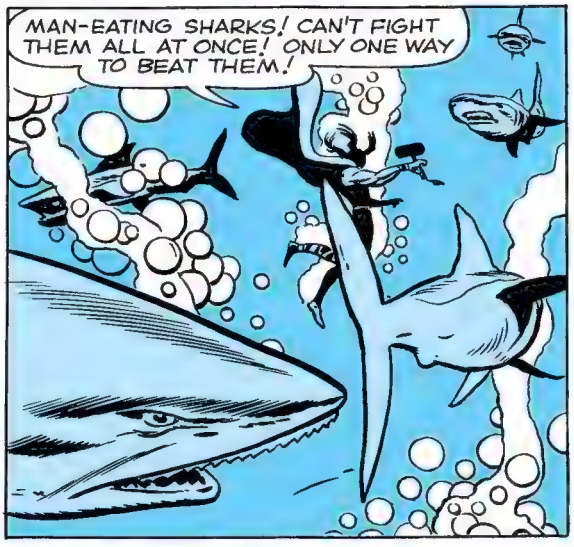

THERE--I AM FREE! FREE TO DO WHAT ONLY THE MIGHTY **THOR** CAN DO!

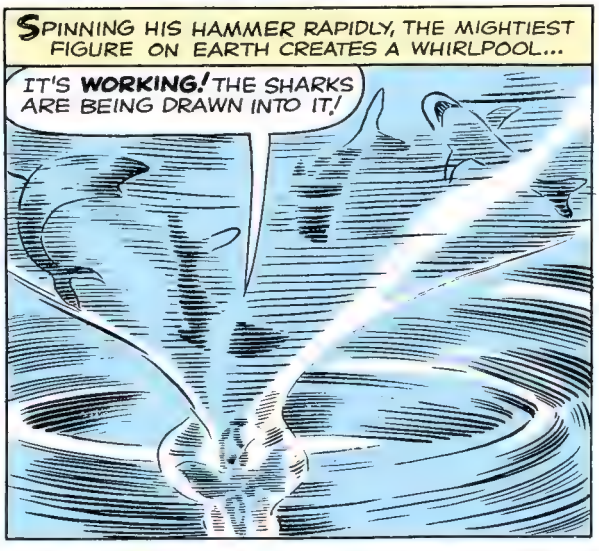
HE CARRIES A HAMMER, LIKE OUR HAMMER AND SICKLE EMBLEM! IS HE ONE OF **US??**
FOOL! HE IS THE ONE THE WESTERN WORLD CALLS THOR-- **THE THUNDER GOD!!**
HE IS OUR ENEMY! **STOP HIM!!**


BUT BEFORE THE GUARDS CAN FIRE, THE MIGHTY THOR RUBS HIS HANDS AGAINST THE MAGIC HAMMER, CREATING SUCH INTENSE **FRICTION,** THAT IT EMITS SPARKS, AS HOT AND BLINDING AS A BLAST FURNACE!
MY EYES-- I CANNOT SEE!
GET BACK! QUICKLY!


HAVING ROUTED THE GUARDS, THOR RUSHES ALONG THE TUNNEL, UNWITTINGLY PASSING AN ELECTRIC EYE BEAM...

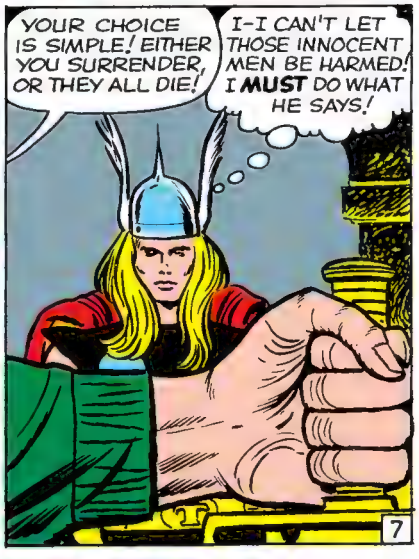

THE INSTANT THE BEAM IS SEVERED, IT TRIGGERS THE RELEASE OF A TRAP DOOR!
WHA--??
I'VE STUMBLED INTO A TRAP!


MAN-EATING SHARKS! CAN'T FIGHT THEM ALL AT ONCE! ONLY ONE WAY TO BEAT THEM!


SPINNING HIS HAMMER RAPIDLY, THE MIGHTIEST FIGURE ON EARTH CREATES A WHIRLPOOL...
IT'S WORKING! THE SHARKS ARE BEING DRAWN INTO IT!

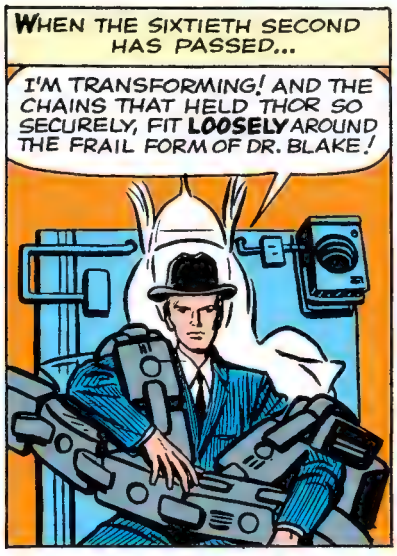
BY THE TIME THE WHIRLPOOL SPINS ITSELF OUT, THOSE MAN-EATERS WILL BE TOO DIZZY TO MENACE ANYONE ELSE!
NOW TO ATTEND TO THE REDS--ESPECIALLY THAT ONE WHO BROUGHT ME HERE!

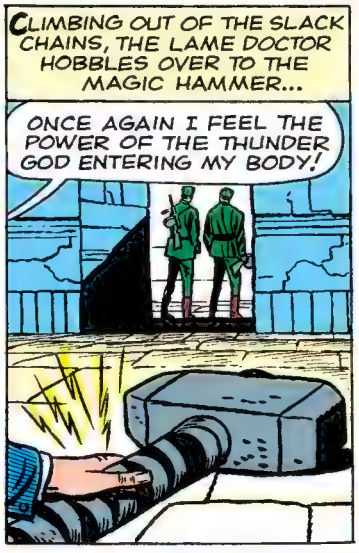
SEARCHING THE FORTRESS, THOR SOON COMES UPON HIS FOES...
HEAR ME, THUNDER-GOD! IF YOU TAKE ANOTHER STEP, I'LL THROW THE SWITCH, SMASHING THE ENTIRE DUNGEON AREA!
EVERYONE WILL BE DESTROYED, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN SCIENTISTS!

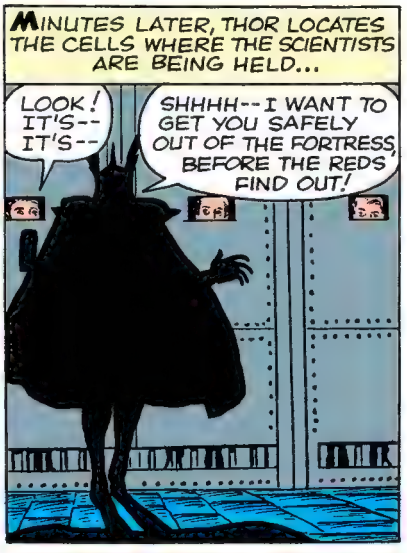

YOUR CHOICE IS SIMPLE! EITHER YOU SURRENDER, OR THEY ALL DIE!
I-I CAN'T LET THOSE INNOCENT MEN BE HARMED! I MUST DO WHAT HE SAYS!

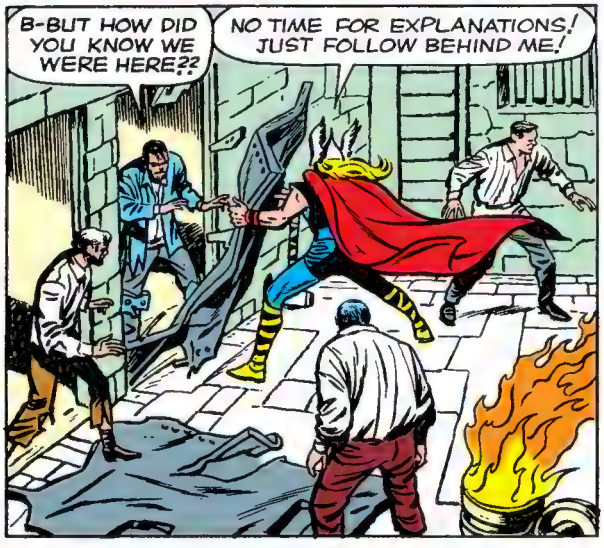
AND SO, FOR ONE OF THE RARE TIMES IN HIS FANTASTIC CAREER, THE MIGHTY THOR IS TAKEN PRISONER...
THESE CHAINS ARE ELECTRONICALLY TREATED! EVEN YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEVER THEM!
NOW I SHALL SEND FOR OUR LEADERS! I SHALL SHOW THEM MY VALUABLE CAPTIVE!
I CANNOT BUDGE THE HAMMER!
IT IS SAID THAT NONE BUT THOR CAN LIFT IT!

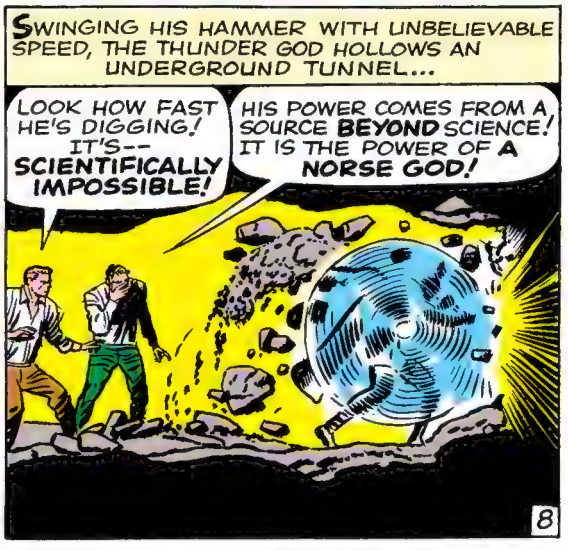
BAH! IT'S FUTILE! LEAVE THE HAMMER! WE MUST GO NOW! THOR IS HELPLESS!
WITHOUT THE MAGIC OF MY HAMMER, I CAN ONLY REMAIN AS THOR FOR SIXTY SECONDS! IN LESS THAN A MINUTE, I'LL CHANGE BACK TO DON BLAKE!

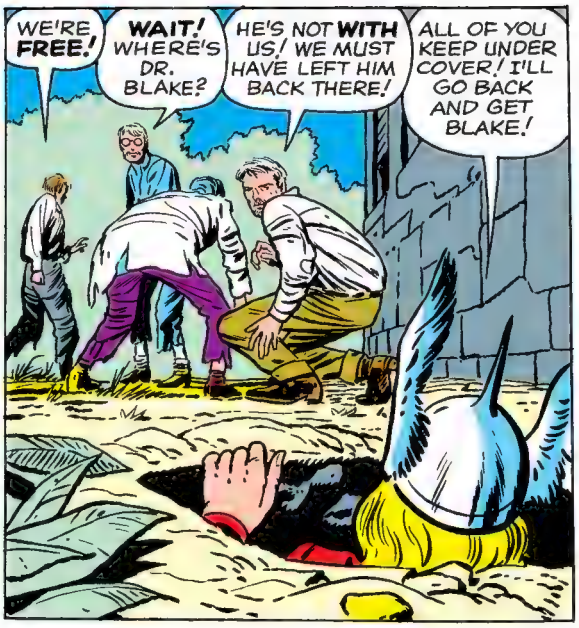

WHEN THE SIXTIETH SECOND HAS PASSED...
I'M TRANSFORMING! AND THE CHAINS THAT HELD THOR SO SECURELY, FIT LOOSELY AROUND THE FRAIL FORM OF DR. BLAKE!


CLIMBING OUT OF THE SLACK CHAINS, THE LAME DOCTOR HOBBLES OVER TO THE MAGIC HAMMER...
ONCE AGAIN I FEEL THE POWER OF THE THUNDER GOD ENTERING MY BODY!

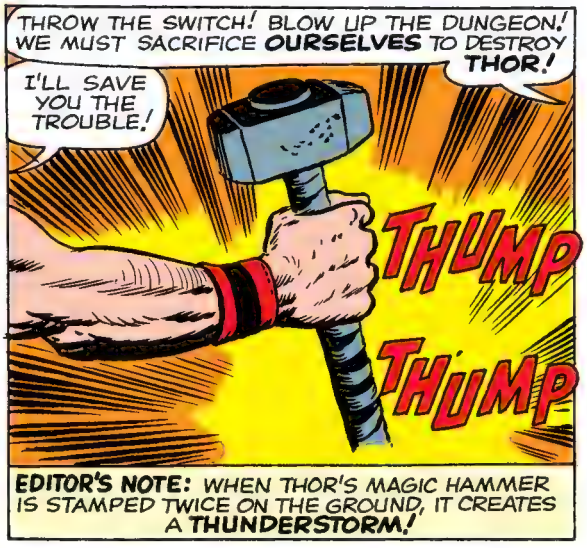

MINUTES LATER, THOR LOCATES THE CELLS WHERE THE SCIENTISTS ARE BEING HELD...
LOOK! IT'S-- IT'S--
SHHHH--I WANT TO GET YOU SAFELY OUT OF THE FORTRESS, BEFORE THE REDS FIND OUT!


B-BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE HERE??
NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS! JUST FOLLOW BEHIND ME!

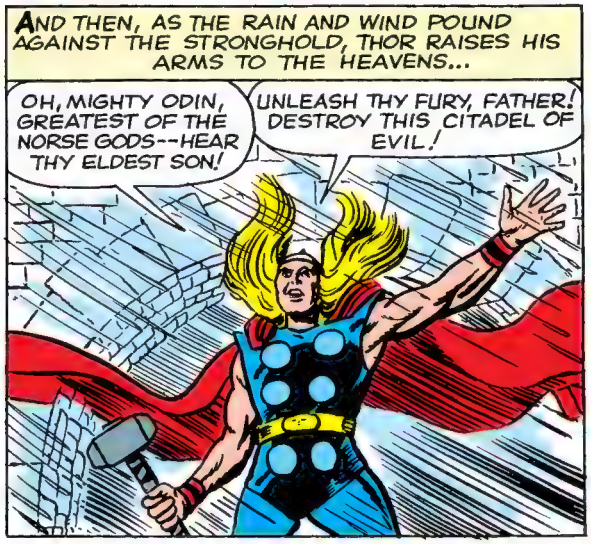

SWINGING HIS HAMMER WITH UNBELIEVABLE SPEED, THE THUNDER GOD HOLLOWS AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL...
LOOK HOW FAST HE'S DIGGING! IT'S-- SCIENTIFICALLY IMPOSSIBLE!
HIS POWER COMES FROM A SOURCE BEYOND SCIENCE! IT IS THE POWER OF A NORSE GOD!

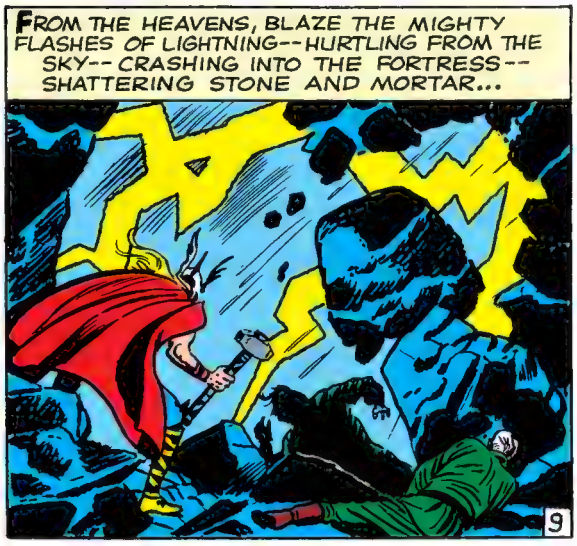

WE'RE FREE!
WAIT! WHERE'S DR. BLAKE?
HE'S NOT WITH US! WE MUST HAVE LEFT HIM BACK THERE!
ALL OF YOU KEEP UNDER COVER! I'LL GO BACK AND GET BLAKE!

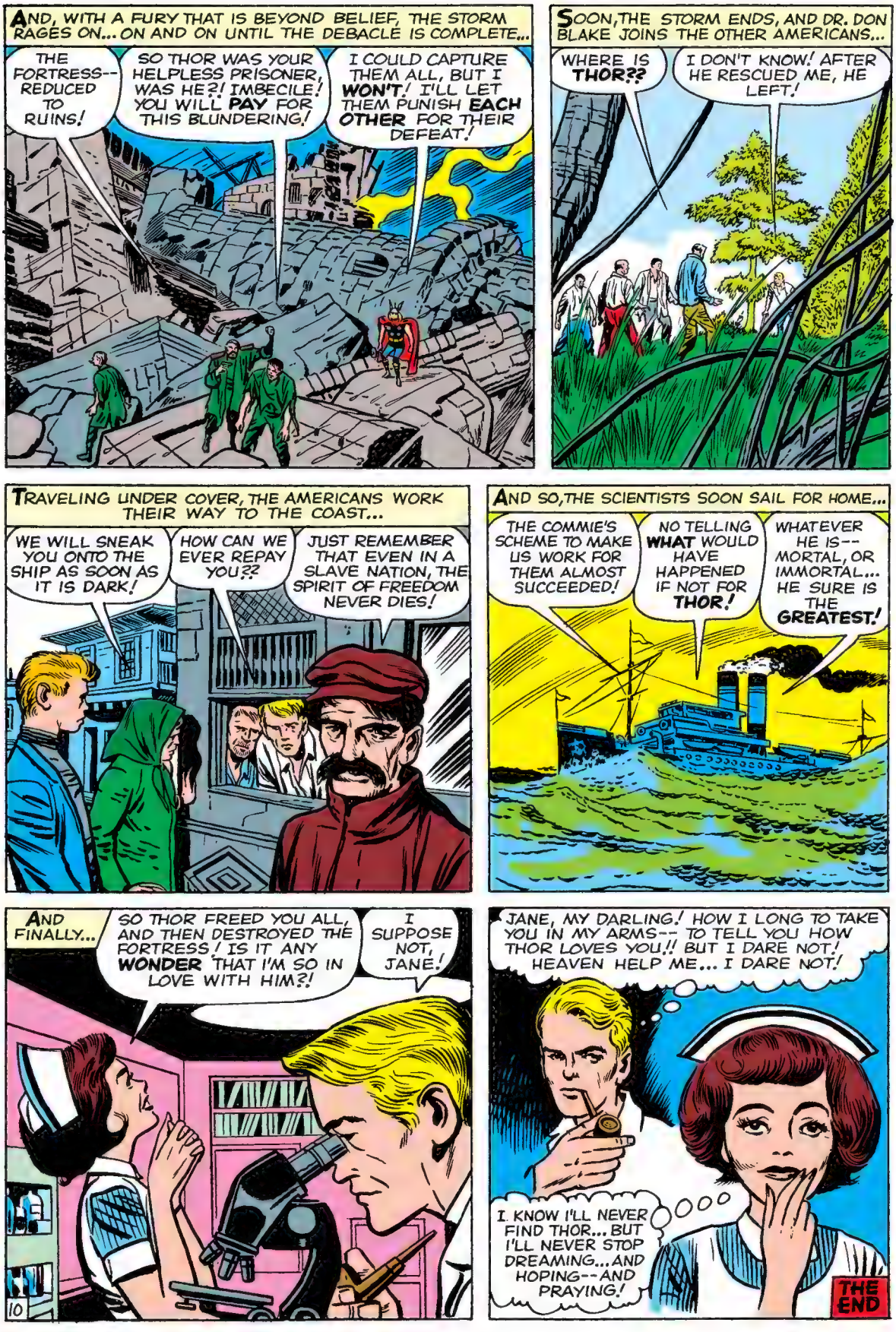
I CAN'T REVEAL THAT BLAKE AND I ARE THE SAME PERSON... BUT IF THINGS WORK OUT RIGHT, I WON'T HAVE TO!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE CAPTURED THOR?
OF COURSE, COMRADE! WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE HIM! HE IS BOUND AS HELPLESS AS A CHILD!



EDITOR'S NOTE: WHEN THOR'S MAGIC HAMMER IS STAMPED TWICE ON THE GROUND, IT CREATES A **THUNDERSTORM!**

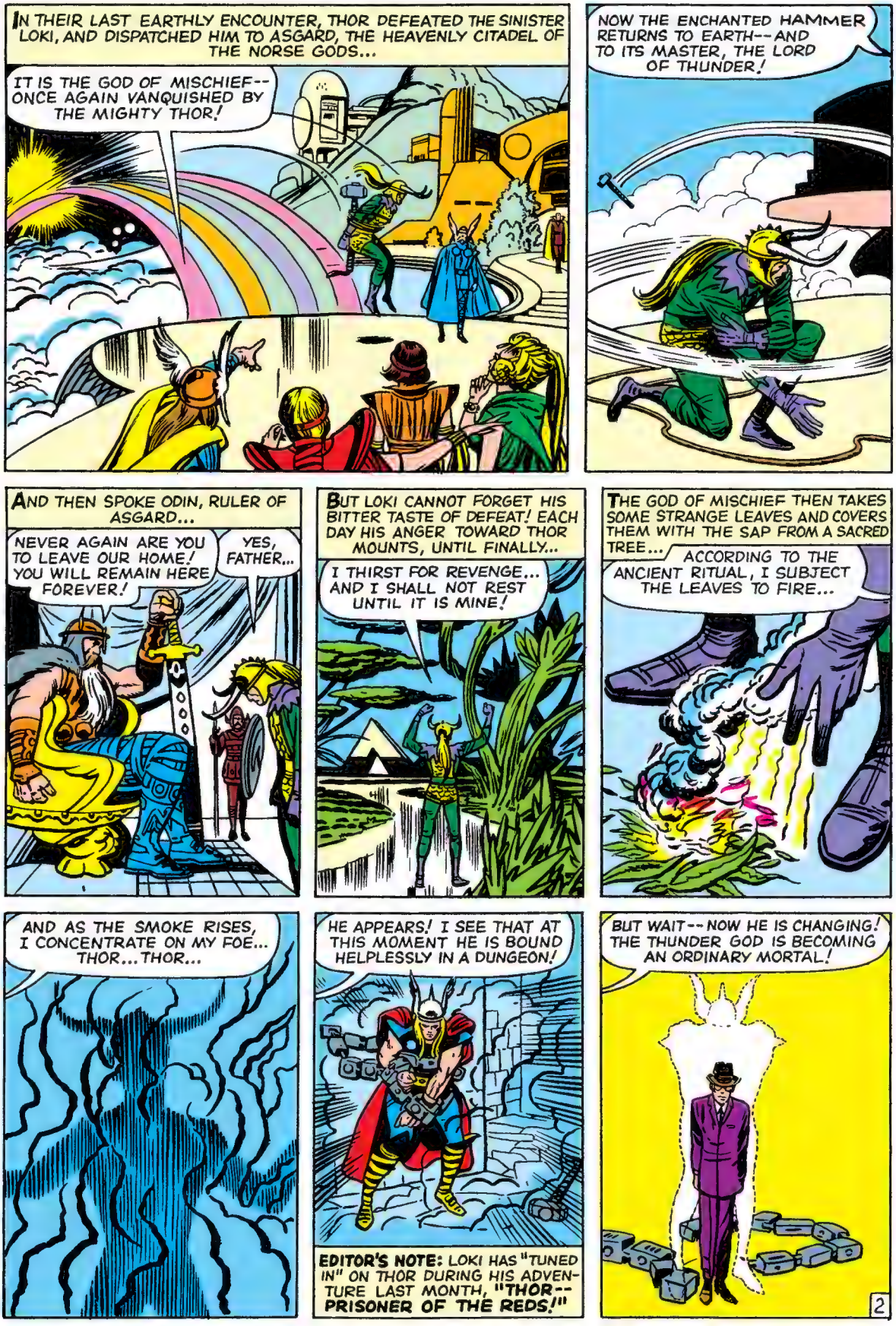

AND THEN, AS THE RAIN AND WIND POUND AGAINST THE STRONGHOLD, THOR RAISES HIS ARMS TO THE HEAVENS...
OH, MIGHTY ODIN, GREATEST OF THE NORSE GODS--HEAR THY ELDEST SON!
UNLEASH THY FURY, FATHER! DESTROY THIS CITADEL OF EVIL!

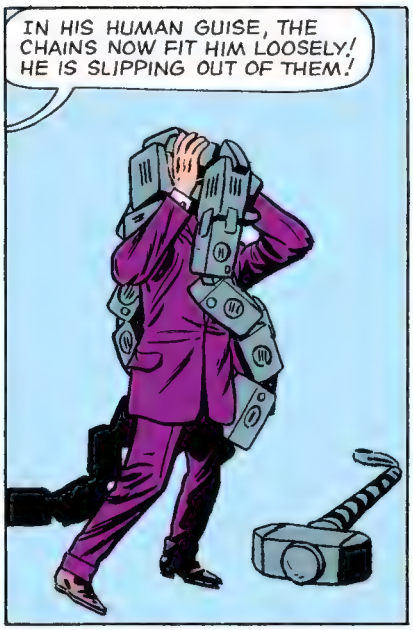

FROM THE HEAVENS, BLAZE THE MIGHTY FLASHES OF LIGHTNING--HURTLING FROM THE SKY--CRASHING INTO THE FORTRESS--SHATTERING STONE AND MORTAR...


AND, WITH A FURY THAT IS BEYOND BELIEF, THE STORM RAGES ON... ON AND ON UNTIL THE DEBACLE IS COMPLETE...
THE FORTRESS-- REDUCED TO RUINS!
SO THOR WAS YOUR HELPLESS PRISONER, WAS HE?! IMBECILE! YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS BLUNDERING!
I COULD CAPTURE THEM ALL, BUT I WON'T! I'LL LET THEM PUNISH EACH OTHER FOR THEIR DEFEAT!
SOON, THE STORM ENDS, AND DR. DON BLAKE JOINS THE OTHER AMERICANS...
WHERE IS THOR??
I DON'T KNOW! AFTER HE RESCUED ME, HE LEFT!
TRAVELING UNDER COVER, THE AMERICANS WORK THEIR WAY TO THE COAST...
WE WILL SNEAK YOU ONTO THE SHIP AS SOON AS IT IS DARK!
HOW CAN WE EVER REPAY YOU??
JUST REMEMBER THAT EVEN IN A SLAVE NATION, THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM NEVER DIES!
AND SO, THE SCIENTISTS SOON SAIL FOR HOME...
THE COMMIE'S SCHEME TO MAKE US WORK FOR THEM ALMOST SUCCEEDED!
NO TELLING WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF NOT FOR THOR!
WHATEVER HE IS-- MORTAL, OR IMMORTAL... HE SURE IS THE GREATEST!
AND FINALLY...
SO THOR FREED YOU ALL, AND THEN DESTROYED THE FORTRESS! IS IT ANY WONDER THAT I'M SO IN LOVE WITH HIM?!
I SUPPOSE NOT, JANE!
JANE, MY DARLING! HOW I LONG TO TAKE YOU IN MY ARMS-- TO TELL YOU HOW THOR LOVES YOU!! BUT I DARE NOT! HEAVEN HELP ME... I DARE NOT!
I KNOW I'LL NEVER FIND THOR... BUT I'LL NEVER STOP DREAMING... AND HOPING-- AND PRAYING!
THE END
10

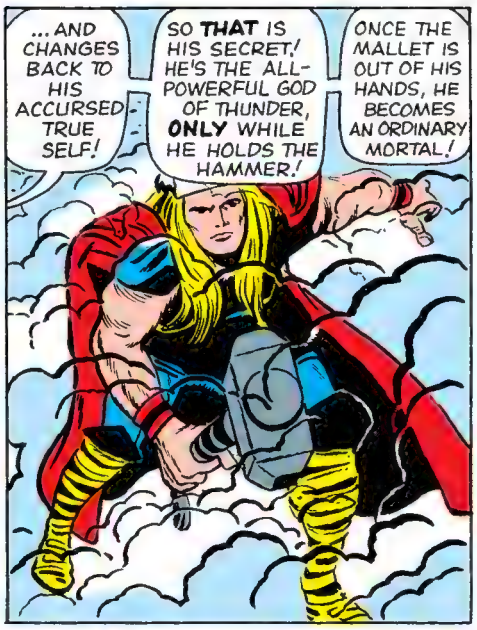
IND.
12¢
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
88 JAN.
HEED MY WORDS, THOR! THOUGH BOTH OF YOU ARE MY SONS, YOU MUST DEFEAT THE EVIL LOKI... FOR THE SAKE OF MANKIND!
NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU, THUNDER GOD! FOR NOW I KNOW THE SECRET OF YOUR HAMMER!
I SHALL NOT FAIL, NOBLE ODIN! NO MATTER WHAT THE COST, LOKI SHALL NOT MENACE EARTH!
SEE THOR, THE MIGHTIEST HERO OF ALL, AS HE DARES FACE "THE TERRIBLE VENGEANCE OF LOKI!"

THE MIGHTY THOR!
STARRING IN:
"the VENGEANCE of LOKI!"
ONCE AGAIN, LOKI, MOST DANGEROUS OF THE NORSE GODS, RETURNS TO GIVE THE MIGHTY THOR HIS GREATEST CHALLENGE!!
PLOT: STAN LEE
SCRIPT: L.D. LIEBER
ART: JACK KIRBY
INKING: DICK AYERS
LETTERING: ART SIMEK

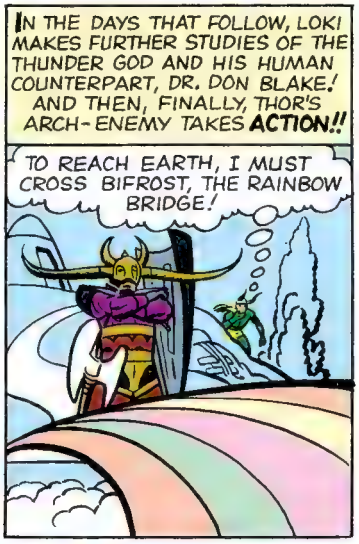

IN THEIR LAST EARTHLY ENCOUNTER, THOR DEFEATED THE SINISTER LOKI, AND DISPATCHED HIM TO ASGARD, THE HEAVENLY CITADEL OF THE NORSE GODS...
IT IS THE GOD OF MISCHIEF--ONCE AGAIN VANQUISHED BY THE MIGHTY THOR!
NOW THE ENCHANTED HAMMER RETURNS TO EARTH--AND TO ITS MASTER, THE LORD OF THUNDER!
AND THEN SPOKE ODIN, RULER OF ASGARD...
NEVER AGAIN ARE YOU TO LEAVE OUR HOME! YOU WILL REMAIN HERE FOREVER!
YES, FATHER...
BUT LOKI CANNOT FORGET HIS BITTER TASTE OF DEFEAT! EACH DAY HIS ANGER TOWARD THOR MOUNTS, UNTIL FINALLY...
I THIRST FOR REVENGE... AND I SHALL NOT REST UNTIL IT IS MINE!
THE GOD OF MISCHIEF THEN TAKES SOME STRANGE LEAVES AND COVERS THEM WITH THE SAP FROM A SACRED TREE...
ACCORDING TO THE ANCIENT RITUAL, I SUBJECT THE LEAVES TO FIRE...
AND AS THE SMOKE RISES, I CONCENTRATE ON MY FOE... THOR... THOR...
HE APPEARS! I SEE THAT AT THIS MOMENT HE IS BOUND HELPLESSLY IN A DUNGEON!
EDITOR'S NOTE: LOKI HAS "TUNED IN" ON THOR DURING HIS ADVENTURE LAST MONTH, "THOR--PRISONER OF THE REDS!"
BUT WAIT-- NOW HE IS CHANGING! THE THUNDER GOD IS BECOMING AN ORDINARY MORTAL!
2


IN HIS HUMAN GUISE, THE CHAINS NOW FIT HIM LOOSELY! HE IS SLIPPING OUT OF THEM!

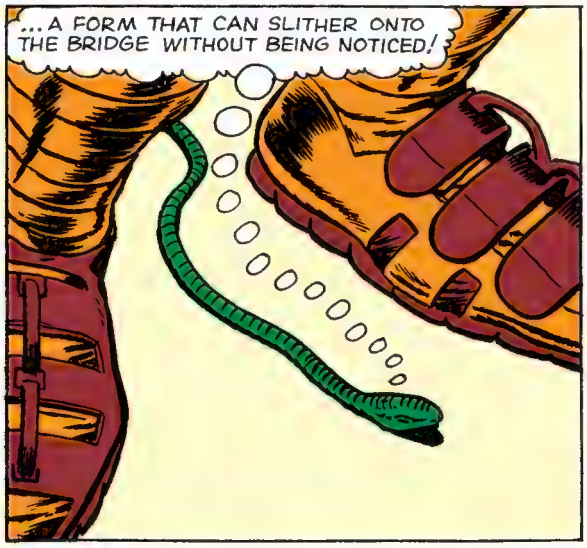
AGAIN HE TOUCHES HIS HAMMER...

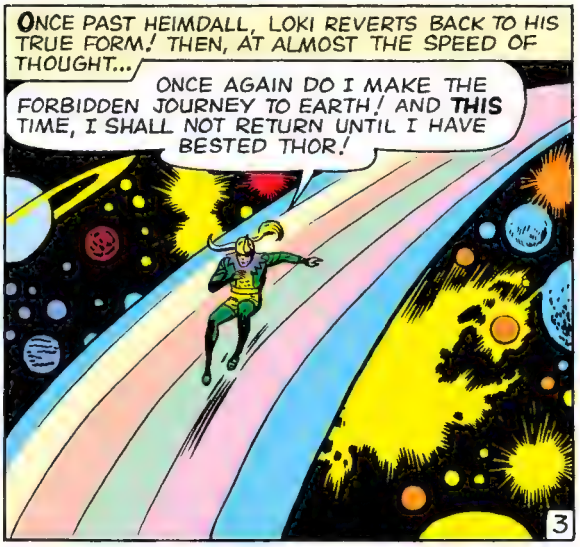

...AND CHANGES BACK TO HIS ACCURSED TRUE SELF!
SO **THAT** IS HIS SECRET! HE'S THE ALL-POWERFUL GOD OF THUNDER, **ONLY** WHILE HE HOLDS THE HAMMER!
ONCE THE MALLET IS OUT OF HIS HANDS, HE BECOMES AN ORDINARY MORTAL!

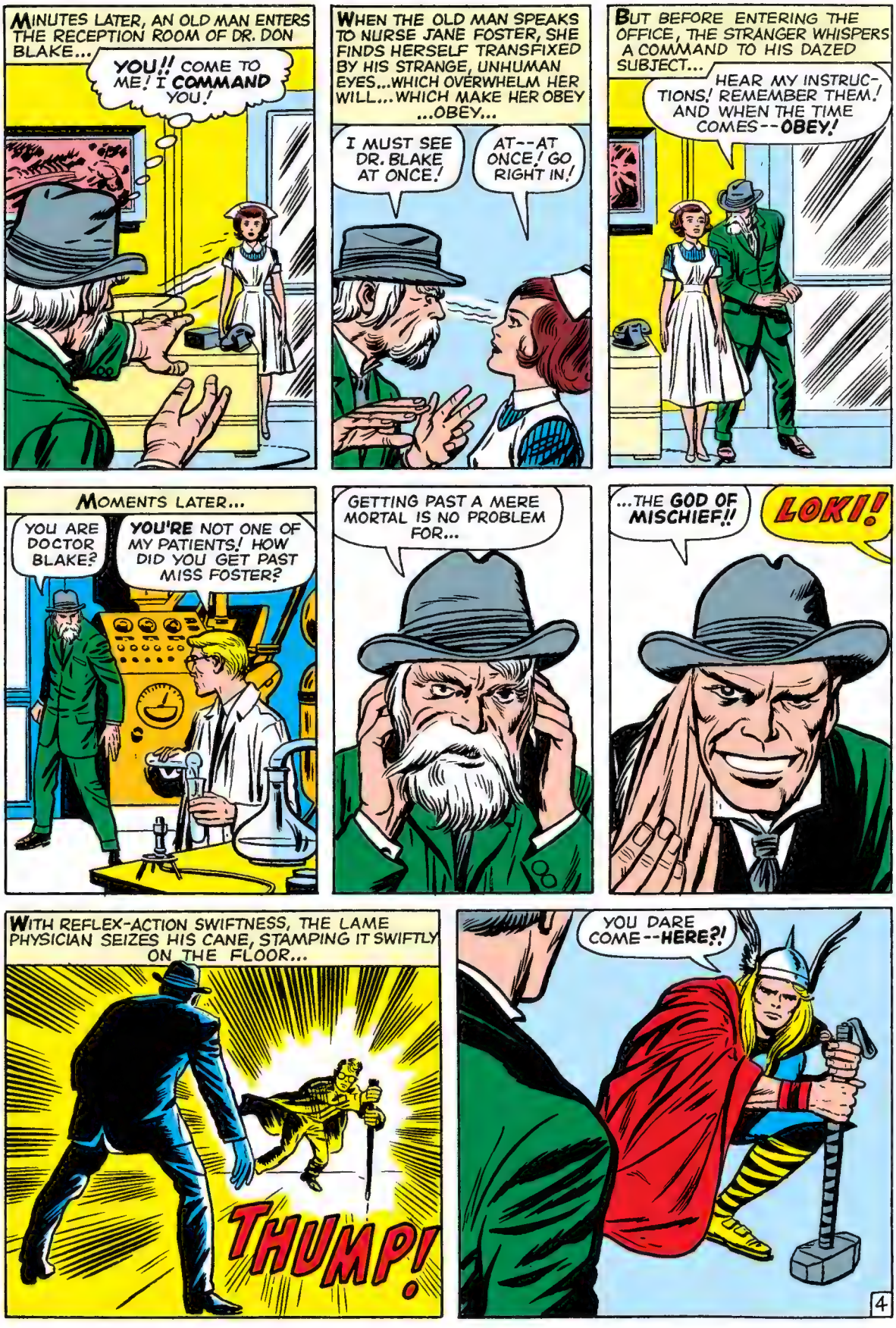
HE IS COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON THE HAMMER! **THAT** IS HIS WEAKNESS--HIS ACHILLES' HEEL --THROUGH WHICH I SHALL **DEFEAT** HIM AT LAST!!


IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, LOKI MAKES FURTHER STUDIES OF THE THUNDER GOD AND HIS HUMAN COUNTERPART, DR. DON BLAKE! AND THEN, FINALLY, THOR'S ARCH-ENEMY TAKES **ACTION!!**
TO REACH EARTH, I MUST CROSS BIFROST, THE RAINBOW BRIDGE!

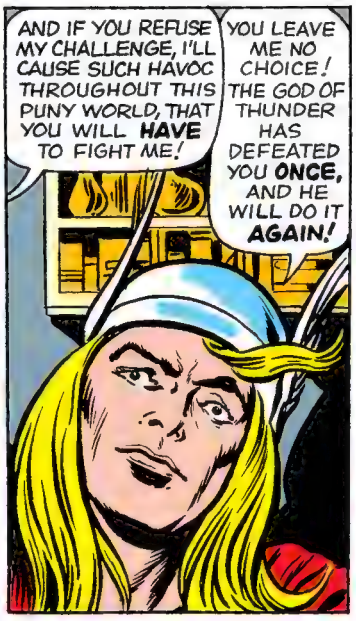
BUT HEIMDALL, THE GUARDIAN OF THE BRIDGE, KNOWS THAT ODIN HAS ORDERED ME TO REMAIN HERE! HE WILL NEVER ALLOW ME TO PASS!
SO I MUST USE MY MAGIC POWER TO ASSUME **ANOTHER** FORM...


...A FORM THAT CAN SLITHER ONTO THE BRIDGE WITHOUT BEING NOTICED!

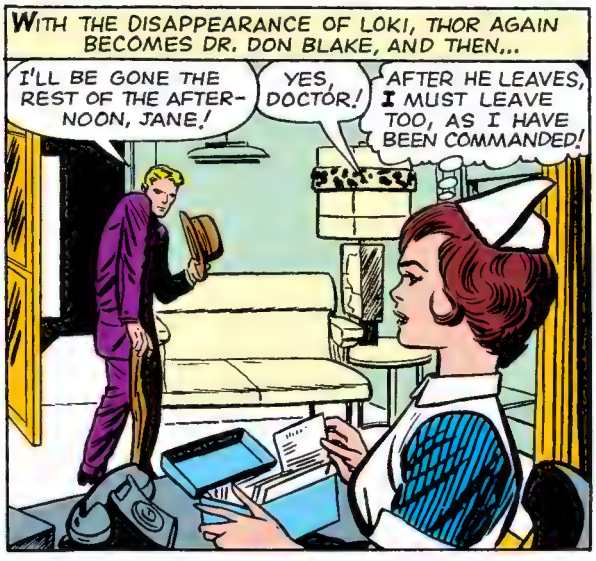

ONCE PAST HEIMDALL, LOKI REVERTS BACK TO HIS TRUE FORM! THEN, AT ALMOST THE SPEED OF THOUGHT...
ONCE AGAIN DO I MAKE THE FORBIDDEN JOURNEY TO EARTH! AND **THIS** TIME, I SHALL NOT RETURN UNTIL I HAVE BESTED THOR!

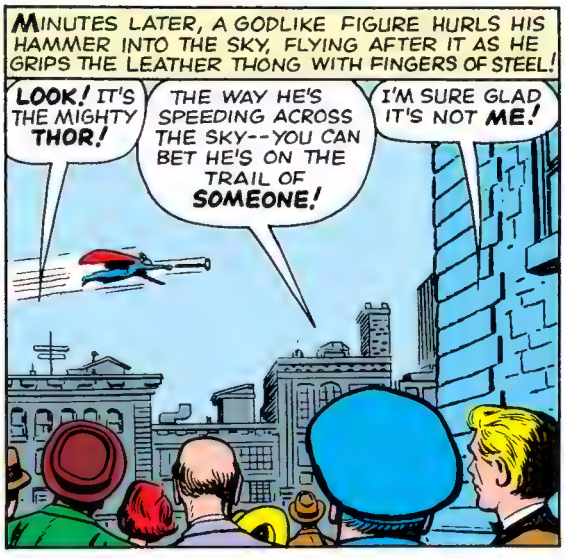

MINUTES LATER, AN OLD MAN ENTERS THE RECEPTION ROOM OF DR. DON BLAKE...
YOU!! COME TO ME! I COMMAND YOU!
WHEN THE OLD MAN SPEAKS TO NURSE JANE FOSTER, SHE FINDS HERSELF TRANSFIXED BY HIS STRANGE, UNHUMAN EYES...WHICH OVERWHELM HER WILL...WHICH MAKE HER OBEY ...OBEY...
I MUST SEE DR. BLAKE AT ONCE!
AT--AT ONCE! GO RIGHT IN!
BUT BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE, THE STRANGER WHISPERS A COMMAND TO HIS DAZED SUBJECT...
HEAR MY INSTRUCTIONS! REMEMBER THEM! AND WHEN THE TIME COMES--OBEY!
MOMENTS LATER...
YOU ARE DOCTOR BLAKE?
YOU'RE NOT ONE OF MY PATIENTS! HOW DID YOU GET PAST MISS FOSTER?
GETTING PAST A MERE MORTAL IS NO PROBLEM FOR...
...THE GOD OF MISCHIEF!!
LOKI!
WITH REFLEX-ACTION SWIFTNESS, THE LAME PHYSICIAN SEIZES HIS CANE, STAMPING IT SWIFTLY ON THE FLOOR...
THUMP!
YOU DARE COME--HERE?!
4

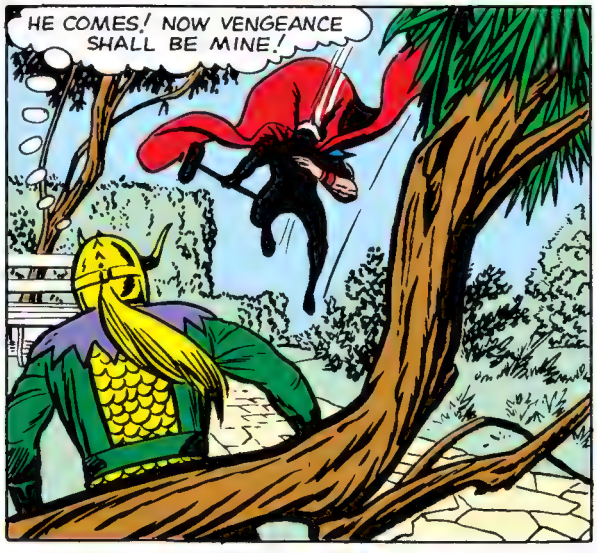
TRANSFORMED INTO THE MOST POWERFUL FIGURE EVER TO WALK THE EARTH, THE THUNDER GOD NOW CONFRONTS HIS FOE!
HOW DID YOU DISCOVER MY SECRET IDENTITY?
THAT IS MY SECRET, HATED ONE! AND NOW--I HAVE COME TO DO BATTLE WITH YOU!


AND IF YOU REFUSE MY CHALLENGE, I'LL CAUSE SUCH HAVOC THROUGHOUT THIS PUNY WORLD, THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO FIGHT ME!
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE! THE GOD OF THUNDER HAS DEFEATED YOU ONCE, AND HE WILL DO IT AGAIN!

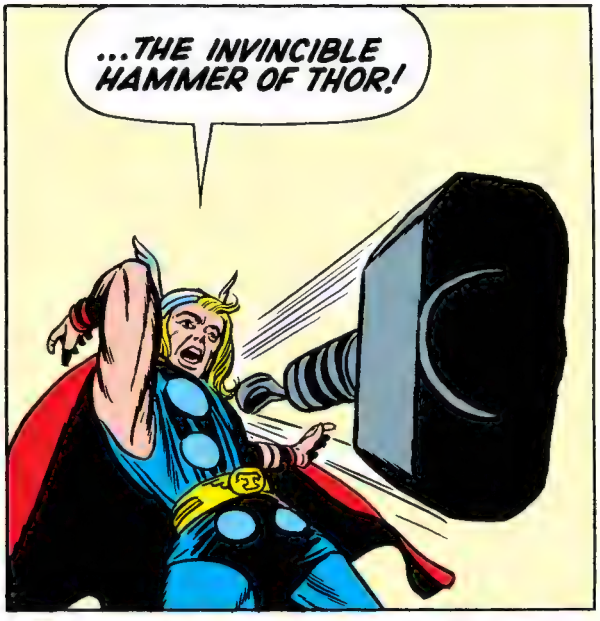
NO, THOR, THIS TIME LOKI SHALL BE THE VICTOR! MEET ME AT CENTER PARK, IN ONE HOUR! THERE, SHALL WE TEST OUR METTLE!
SO BE IT!

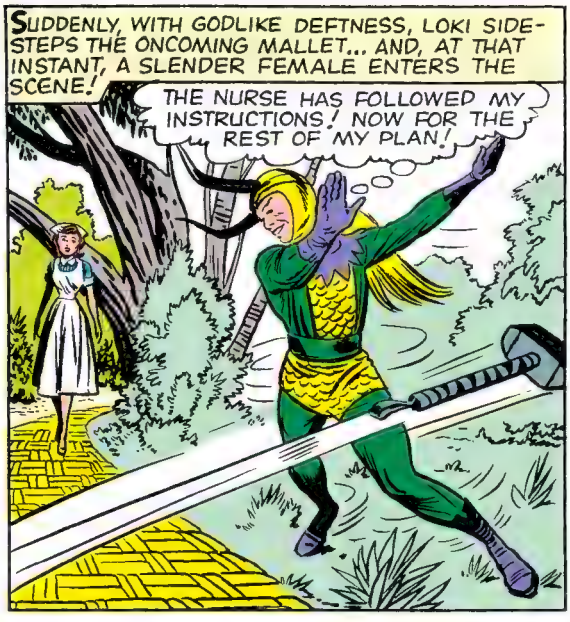

WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF LOKI, THOR AGAIN BECOMES DR. DON BLAKE, AND THEN...
I'LL BE GONE THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON, JANE!
YES, DOCTOR!
AFTER HE LEAVES, I MUST LEAVE TOO, AS I HAVE BEEN COMMANDED!


MINUTES LATER, A GODLIKE FIGURE HURLS HIS HAMMER INTO THE SKY, FLYING AFTER IT AS HE GRIPS THE LEATHER THONG WITH FINGERS OF STEEL!
LOOK! IT'S THE MIGHTY THOR!
THE WAY HE'S SPEEDING ACROSS THE SKY--YOU CAN BET HE'S ON THE TRAIL OF SOMEONE!
I'M SURE GLAD IT'S NOT ME!


HE COMES! NOW VENGEANCE SHALL BE MINE!

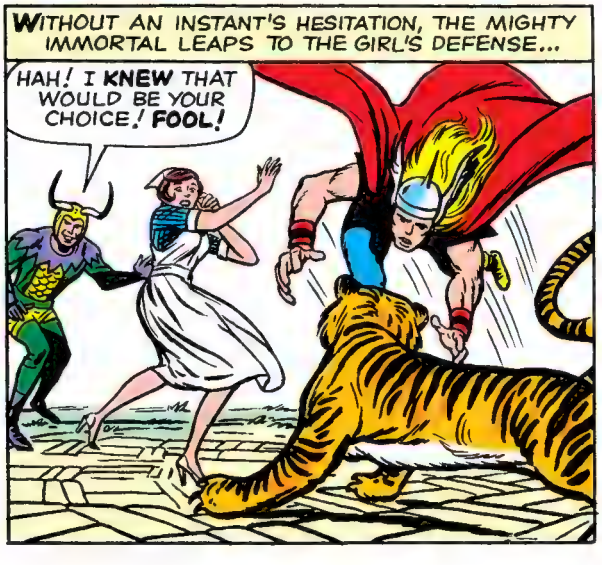
PREPARE TO BATTLE, THOR! AND PREPARE TO BE VANQUISHED BY LOKI!
YOU DECEIVE YOURSELF, LOKI! THOUGH I CANNOT MATCH YOU, POWER FOR POWER, I HAVE ONE WEAPON WHICH YOU CANNOT MATCH...

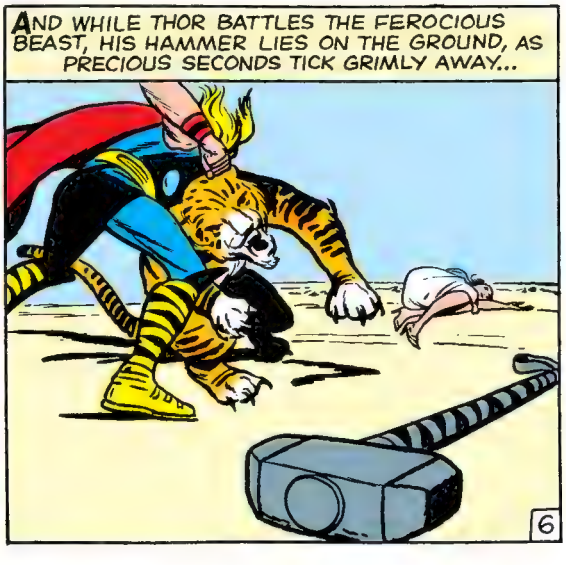

...THE INVINCIBLE HAMMER OF THOR!

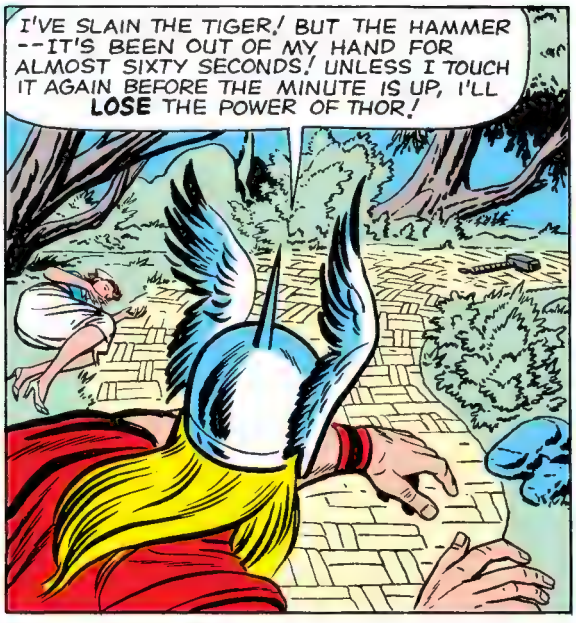

SUDDENLY, WITH GODLIKE DEFTNESS, LOKI SIDESTEPS THE ONCOMING MALLET... AND, AT THAT INSTANT, A SLENDER FEMALE ENTERS THE SCENE!
THE NURSE HAS FOLLOWED MY INSTRUCTIONS! NOW FOR THE REST OF MY PLAN!

USING HIS MAGIC POWERS, THE GOD OF MISCHIEF TRANSFORMS A NEARBY TREE INTO...A SNARLING TIGER!

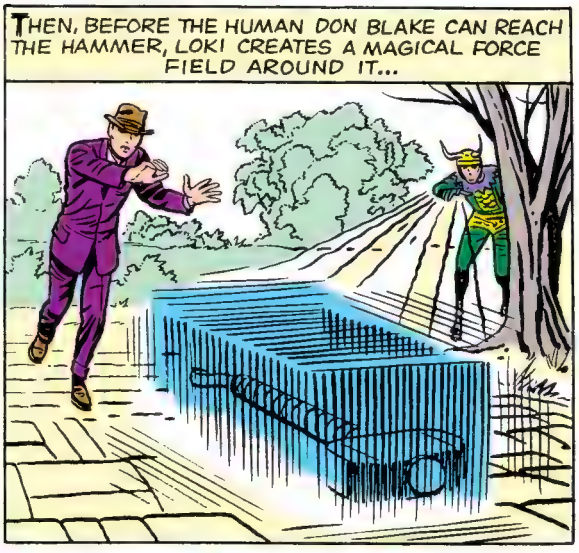
THEN, BEFORE THE ENCHANTED HAMMER CAN RETURN TO THOR...
BEHOLD! YOUR NURSE IS IN DIRE DANGER! SAVE HER... OR SEIZE YOUR HAMMER!! THERE IS TIME TO DO ONLY ONE! WHICH SHALL IT BE, THUNDER GOD?!!
JANE--!!


WITHOUT AN INSTANT'S HESITATION, THE MIGHTY IMMORTAL LEAPS TO THE GIRL'S DEFENSE...
HAH! I KNEW THAT WOULD BE YOUR CHOICE! FOOL!


AND WHILE THOR BATTLES THE FEROCIOUS BEAST, HIS HAMMER LIES ON THE GROUND, AS PRECIOUS SECONDS TICK GRIMLY AWAY...
6

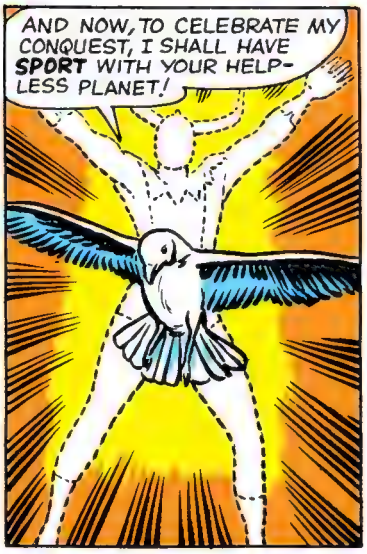

I'VE SLAIN THE TIGER! BUT THE HAMMER --IT'S BEEN OUT OF MY HAND FOR ALMOST SIXTY SECONDS! UNLESS I TOUCH IT AGAIN BEFORE THE MINUTE IS UP, I'LL LOSE THE POWER OF THOR!

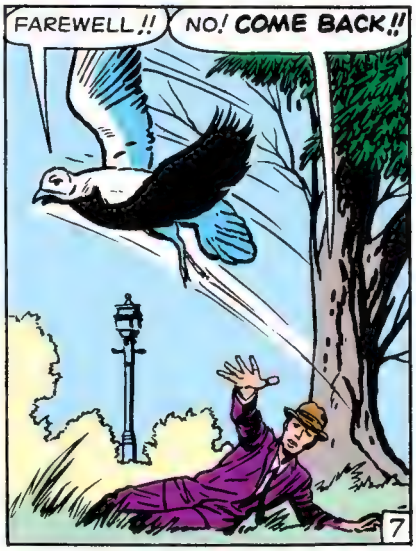
TOO LATE! THE MINUTE HAS PASSED! I'M TURNING BACK TO MY NORMAL SELF!

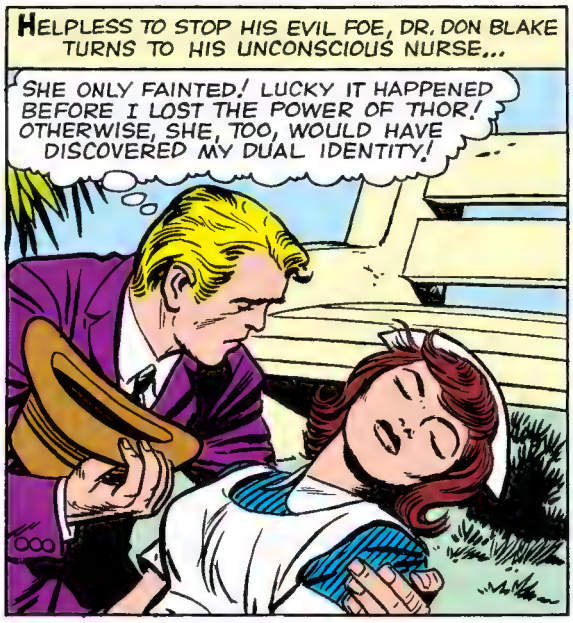

THEN, BEFORE THE HUMAN DON BLAKE CAN REACH THE HAMMER, LOKI CREATES A MAGICAL FORCE FIELD AROUND IT...

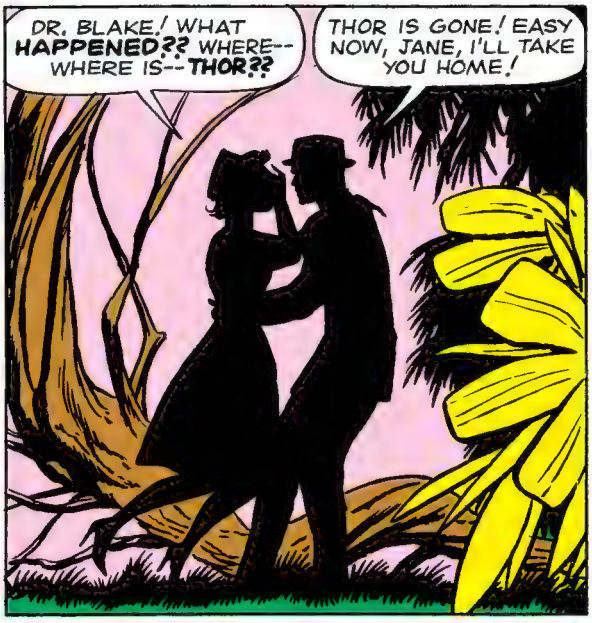
I-I CAN'T REMOVE THIS THING-- CAN'T GET TO THE HAMMER!!
I'VE WON! I'VE BEATEN THOR! AT LAST!

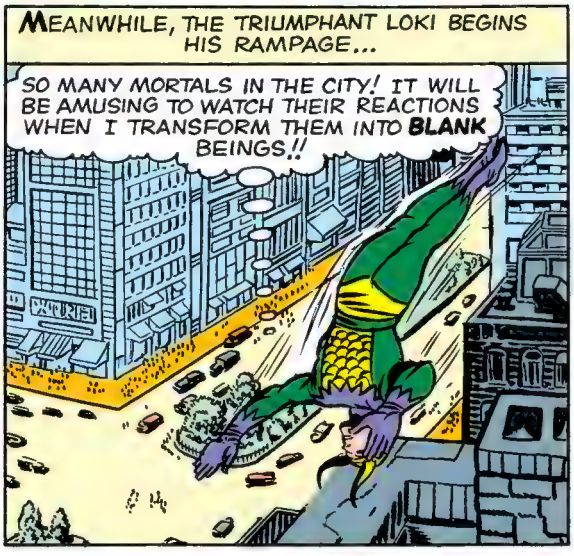
NO ONE--NOTHING --CAN PIERCE MY FORCE FIELD! THE HAMMER IS FOREVER BEYOND YOUR REACH!
YOU SHALL NEVER AGAIN POSSESS THE POWER OF THOR! THUS HAVE I DEFEATED YOU!

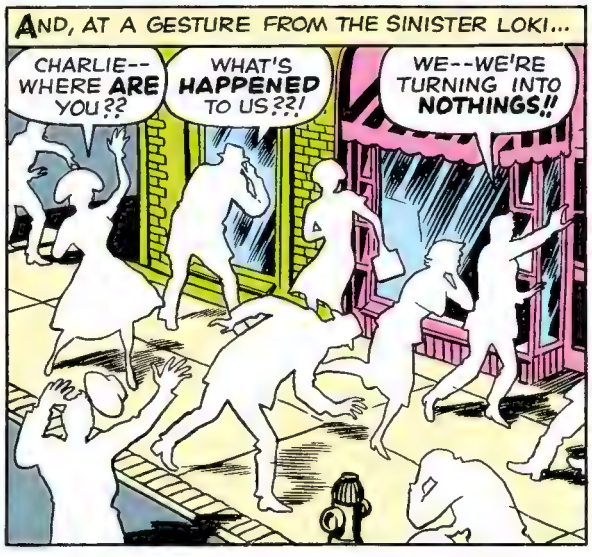

AND NOW, TO CELEBRATE MY CONQUEST, I SHALL HAVE SPORT WITH YOUR HELPLESS PLANET!

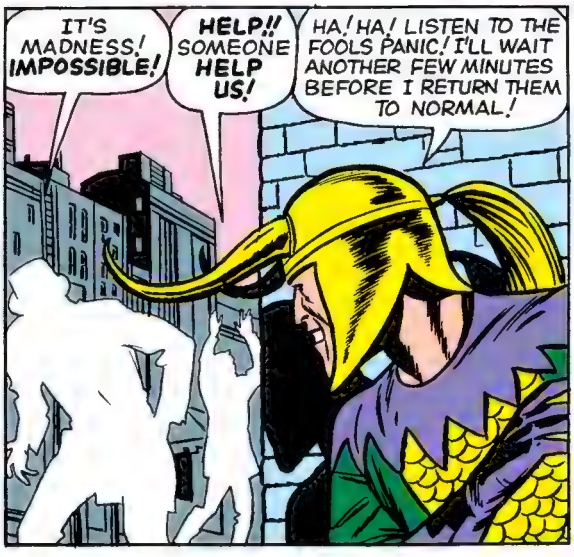

FAREWELL.!!
NO! COME BACK.!!

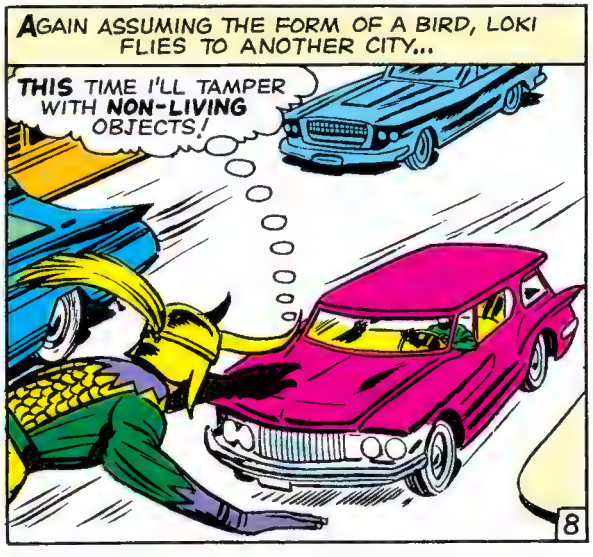

HELPLESS TO STOP HIS EVIL FOE, DR. DON BLAKE TURNS TO HIS UNCONSCIOUS NURSE...
SHE ONLY FAINTED! LUCKY IT HAPPENED BEFORE I LOST THE POWER OF THOR! OTHERWISE, SHE, TOO, WOULD HAVE DISCOVERED MY DUAL IDENTITY!


DR. BLAKE! WHAT HAPPENED?? WHERE-- WHERE IS--THOR??
THOR IS GONE! EASY NOW, JANE, I'LL TAKE YOU HOME!


MEANWHILE, THE TRIUMPHANT LOKI BEGINS HIS RAMPAGE...
SO MANY MORTALS IN THE CITY! IT WILL BE AMUSING TO WATCH THEIR REACTIONS WHEN I TRANSFORM THEM INTO BLANK BEINGS!!
MUSIC

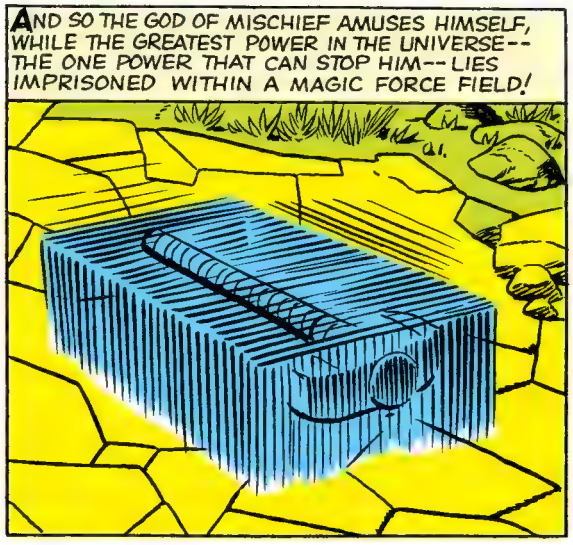

AND, AT A GESTURE FROM THE SINISTER LOKI...
CHARLIE-- WHERE ARE YOU??
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US??!
WE--WE'RE TURNING INTO NOTHINGS!!

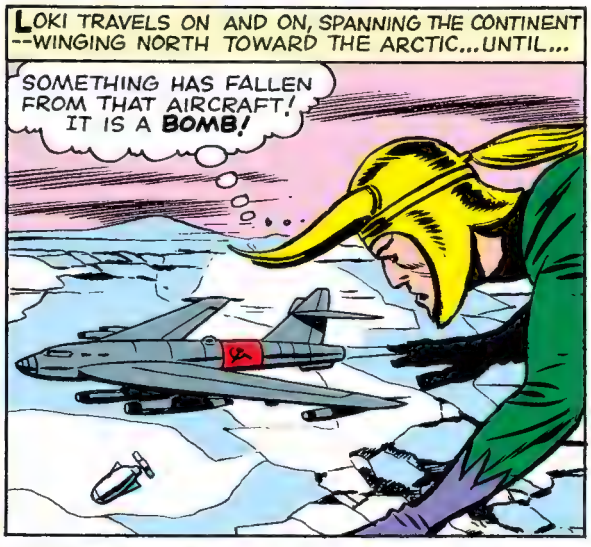

IT'S MADNESS! IMPOSSIBLE!
HELP!! SOMEONE HELP US!
HA! HA! LISTEN TO THE FOOLS PANIC! I'LL WAIT ANOTHER FEW MINUTES BEFORE I RETURN THEM TO NORMAL!

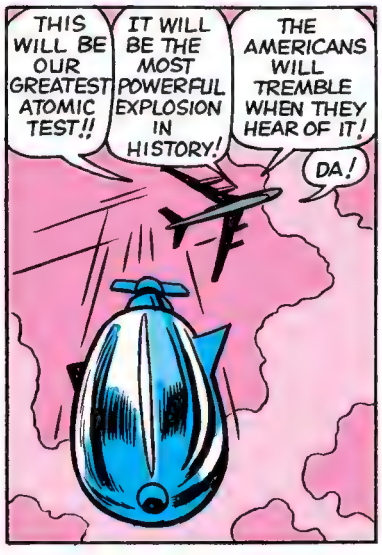

AGAIN ASSUMING THE FORM OF A BIRD, LOKI FLIES TO ANOTHER CITY...
THIS TIME I'LL TAMPER WITH NON-LIVING OBJECTS!

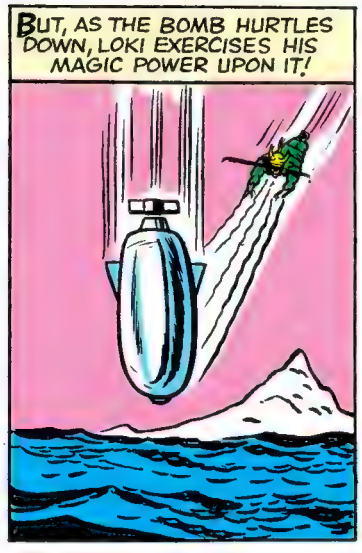
ONCE MORE, THE UNBELIEVABLE COMES TO PASS...
THE BUILDING--ALL THE BRICK AND CEMENT--IT'S TURNING INTO C-CANDY!!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A CAR MADE OF ICE CREAM!

THE SUN IS MELTING MY CONVERTIBLE!
HEY! STOP LICKING MY BICYCLE! SHOO!
PRICELESS! I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN IN CENTURIES!

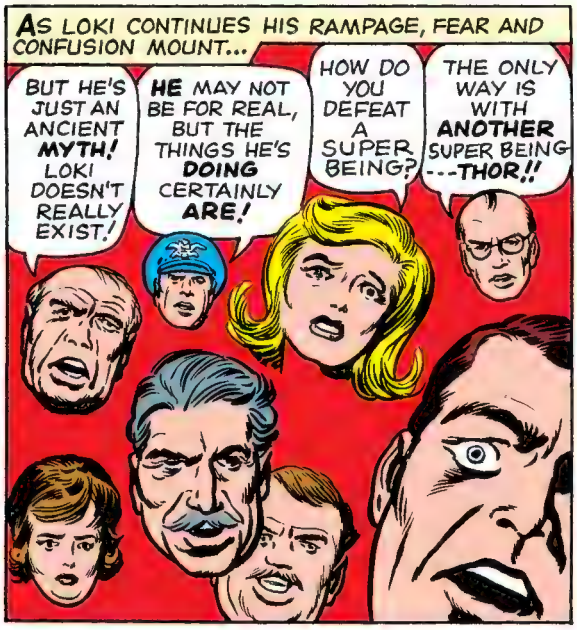

AND SO THE GOD OF MISCHIEF AMUSES HIMSELF, WHILE THE GREATEST POWER IN THE UNIVERSE--THE ONE POWER THAT CAN STOP HIM--LIES IMPRISONED WITHIN A MAGIC FORCE FIELD!

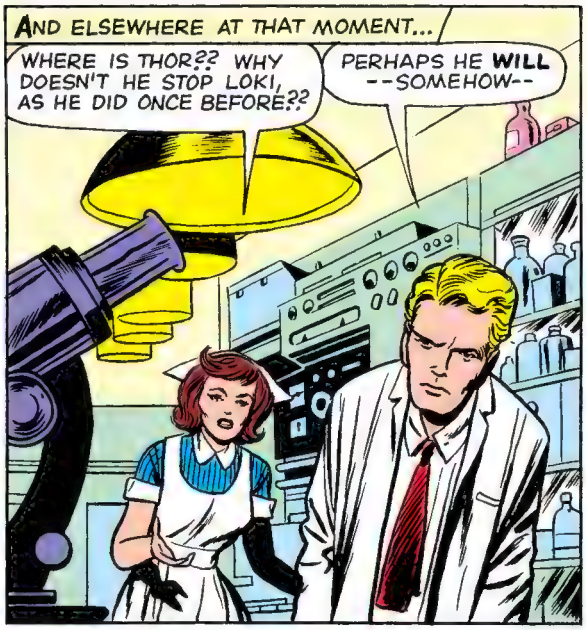

LOKI TRAVELS ON AND ON, SPANNING THE CONTINENT --WINGING NORTH TOWARD THE ARCTIC...UNTIL...
SOMETHING HAS FALLEN FROM THAT AIRCRAFT! IT IS A BOMB!

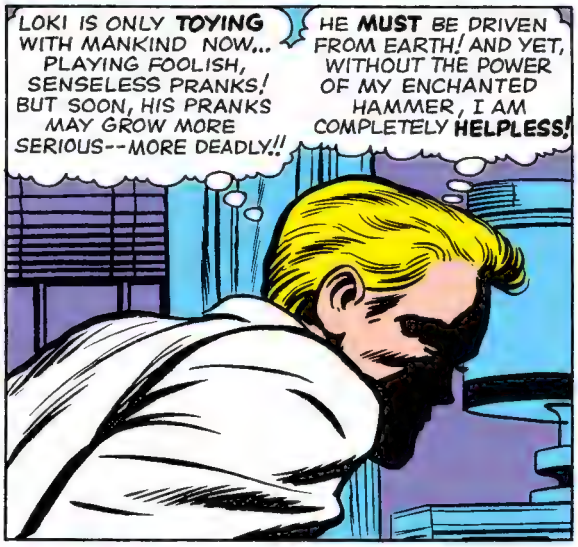

THIS WILL BE OUR GREATEST ATOMIC TEST!!
IT WILL BE THE MOST POWERFUL EXPLOSION IN HISTORY!
THE AMERICANS WILL TREMBLE WHEN THEY HEAR OF IT!
DA!


BUT, AS THE BOMB HURTLES DOWN, LOKI EXERCISES HIS MAGIC POWER UPON IT!

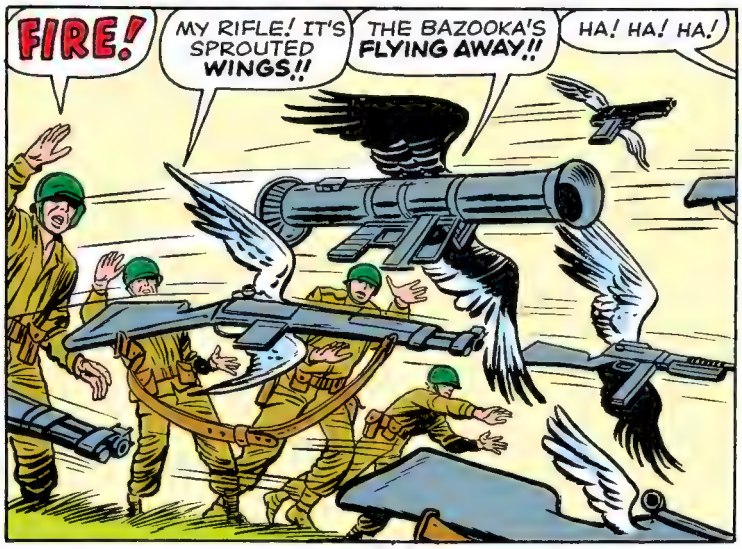
IT--IT WAS A DUD!
WE FAILED!! HOW CAN WE FACE NIKITA NOW?
PLINK!


AS LOKI CONTINUES HIS RAMPAGE, FEAR AND CONFUSION MOUNT...
BUT HE'S JUST AN ANCIENT MYTH! LOKI DOESN'T REALLY EXIST!
HE MAY NOT BE FOR REAL, BUT THE THINGS HE'S DOING CERTAINLY ARE!
HOW DO YOU DEFEAT A SUPER BEING?
THE ONLY WAY IS WITH ANOTHER SUPER BEING---THOR!!

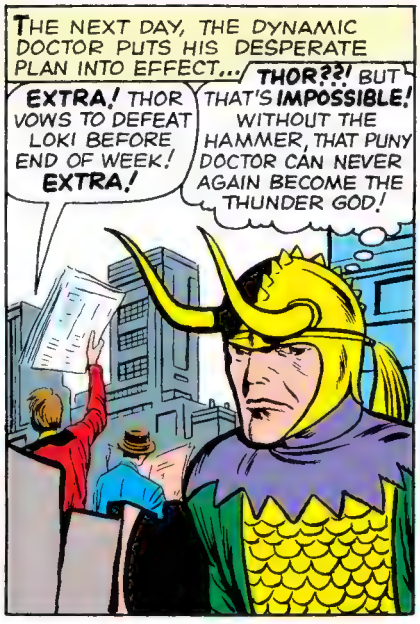

AND ELSEWHERE AT THAT MOMENT...
WHERE IS THOR?? WHY DOESN'T HE STOP LOKI, AS HE DID ONCE BEFORE??
PERHAPS HE WILL --SOMEHOW--


LOKI IS ONLY TOYING WITH MANKIND NOW... PLAYING FOOLISH, SENSELESS PRANKS! BUT SOON, HIS PRANKS MAY GROW MORE SERIOUS--MORE DEADLY!!
HE MUST BE DRIVEN FROM EARTH! AND YET, WITHOUT THE POWER OF MY ENCHANTED HAMMER, I AM COMPLETELY HELPLESS!

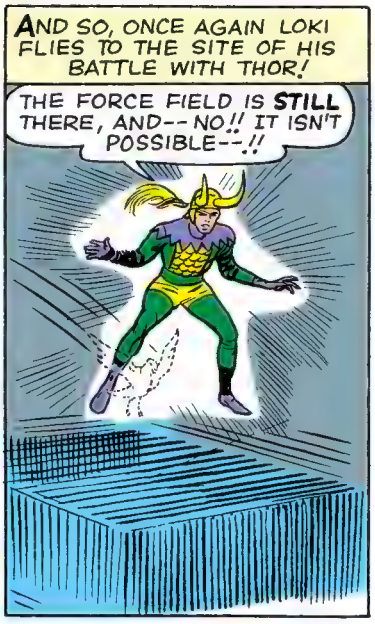
MEANWHILE, EARTHLY WEAPONS ARE BROUGHT INTO PLAY AGAINST THE MASTER OF MISCHIEF!
PREPARE TO FIRE!
FOOLS! YOU CANNOT MATCH THOSE TOYS AGAINST THE MAGIC OF LOKI!

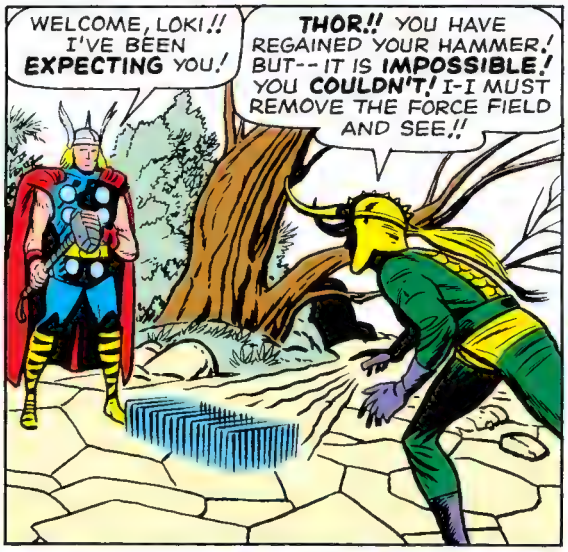

FIRE!
MY RIFLE! IT'S SPROUTED WINGS!!
THE BAZOOKA'S FLYING AWAY!!
HA! HA! HA!

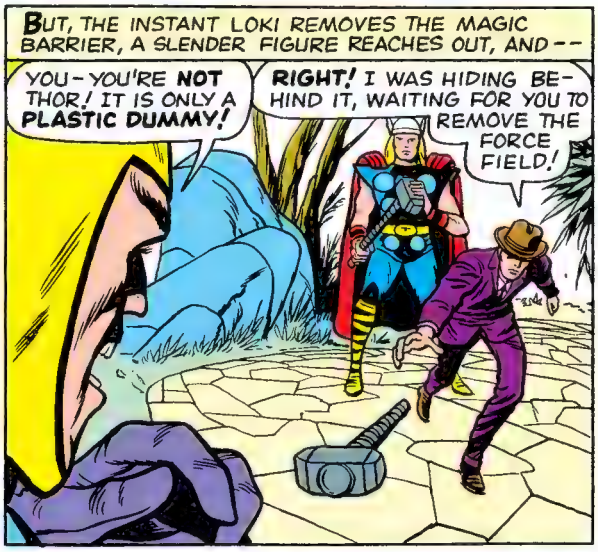
AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, DON BLAKE GETS THE IDEA!
THAT'S THE ANSWER! IT'LL WORK! I'M CERTAIN OF IT!


THE NEXT DAY, THE DYNAMIC DOCTOR PUTS HIS DESPERATE PLAN INTO EFFECT...
THOR??!
EXTRA! THOR VOWS TO DEFEAT LOKI BEFORE END OF WEEK! EXTRA!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WITHOUT THE HAMMER, THAT PUNY DOCTOR CAN NEVER AGAIN BECOME THE THUNDER GOD!

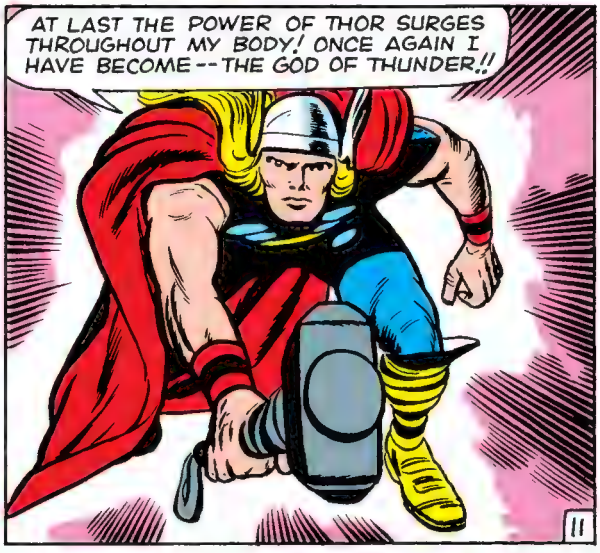
I MUST FIND OUT AT ONCE!
AND THE HAMMER IS SURROUNDED BY MY IMPENETRABLE FORCE FIELD! NOTHING CAN GET THROUGH IT! YET, WHAT IF I AM WRONG? WHAT IF HE DISCOVERED A WAY...?

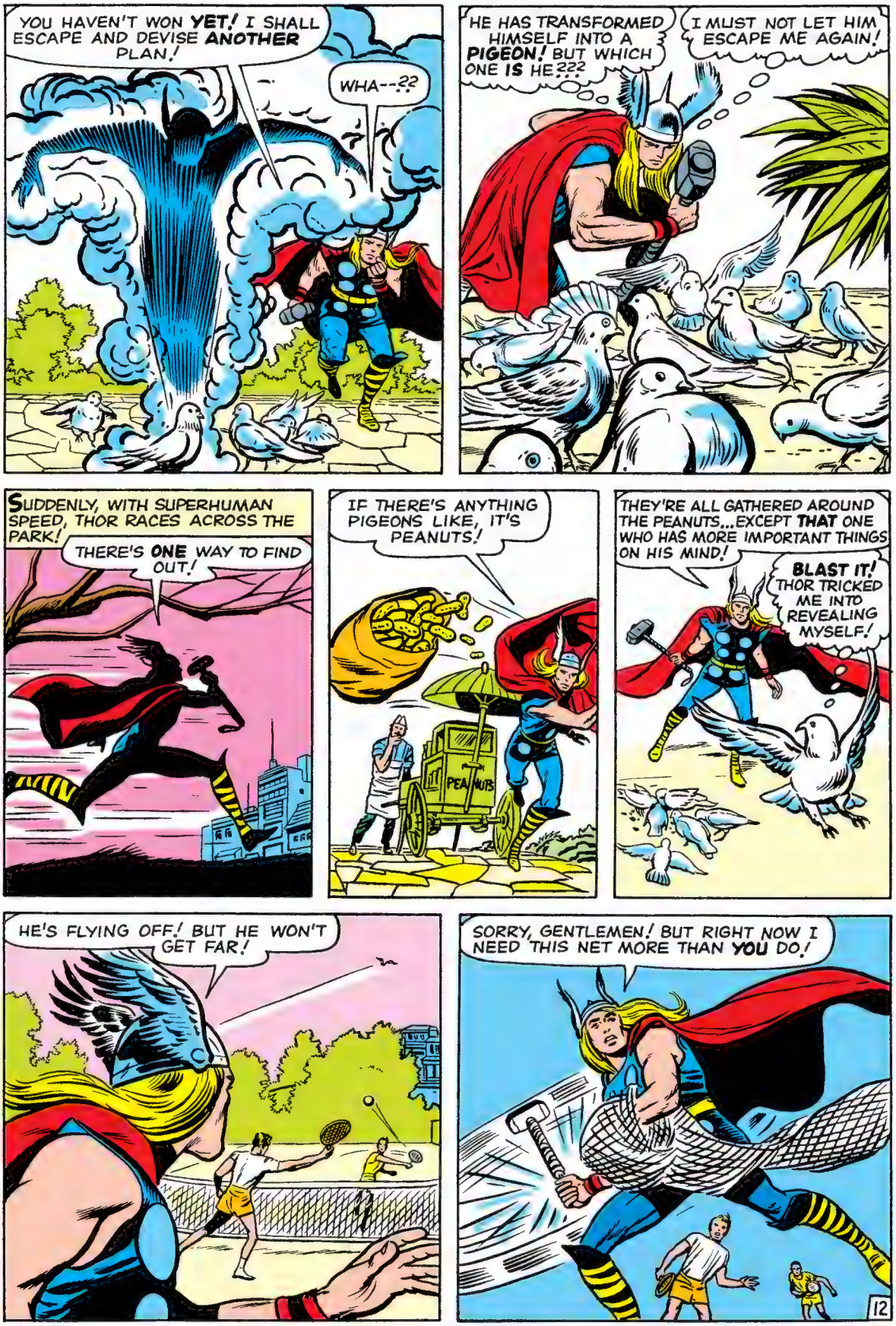

AND SO, ONCE AGAIN LOKI FLIES TO THE SITE OF HIS BATTLE WITH THOR!
THE FORCE FIELD IS STILL THERE, AND--NO!! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE--!!


WELCOME, LOKI!! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
THOR!! YOU HAVE REGAINED YOUR HAMMER! BUT--IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! YOU COULDN'T! I-I MUST REMOVE THE FORCE FIELD AND SEE!!


BUT, THE INSTANT LOKI REMOVES THE MAGIC BARRIER, A SLENDER FIGURE REACHES OUT, AND--
YOU-YOU'RE NOT THOR! IT IS ONLY A PLASTIC DUMMY!
RIGHT! I WAS HIDING BEHIND IT, WAITING FOR YOU TO REMOVE THE FORCE FIELD!

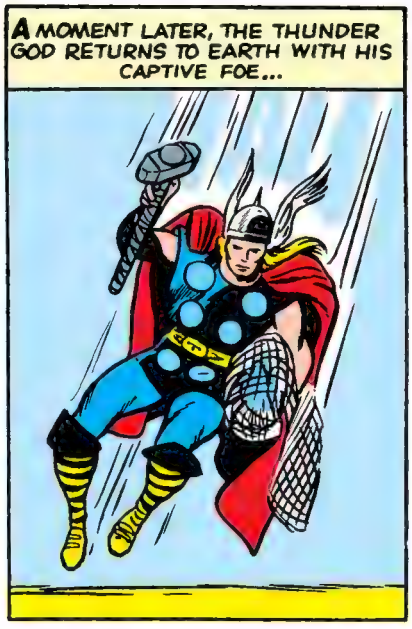
STOP!! DON'T TOUCH THAT HAMMER!!
YOU'RE TOO LATE, LOKI!

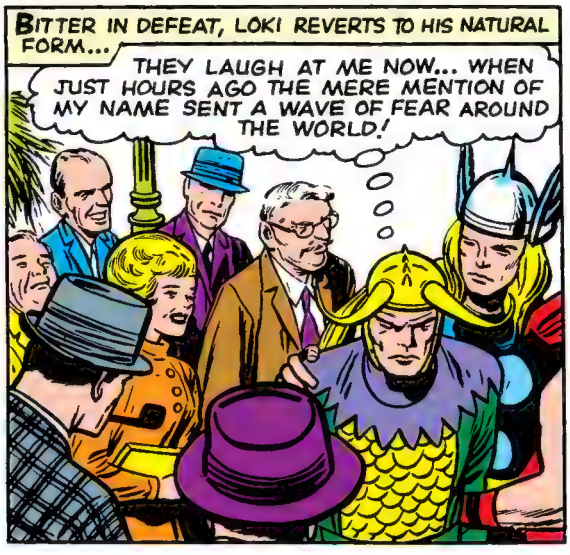

AT LAST THE POWER OF THOR SURGES THROUGHOUT MY BODY! ONCE AGAIN I HAVE BECOME--THE GOD OF THUNDER!!


YOU HAVEN'T WON YET! I SHALL ESCAPE AND DEVISE ANOTHER PLAN!
WHA--??
HE HAS TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO A PIGEON! BUT WHICH ONE IS HE???
I MUST NOT LET HIM ESCAPE ME AGAIN!
SUDDENLY, WITH SUPERHUMAN SPEED, THOR RACES ACROSS THE PARK!
THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!
IF THERE'S ANYTHING PIGEONS LIKE, IT'S PEANUTS!
PEANUTS
THEY'RE ALL GATHERED AROUND THE PEANUTS...EXCEPT THAT ONE WHO HAS MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ON HIS MIND!
BLAST IT! THOR TRICKED ME INTO REVEALING MYSELF!
HE'S FLYING OFF! BUT HE WON'T GET FAR!
SORRY, GENTLEMEN! BUT RIGHT NOW I NEED THIS NET MORE THAN YOU DO!
12

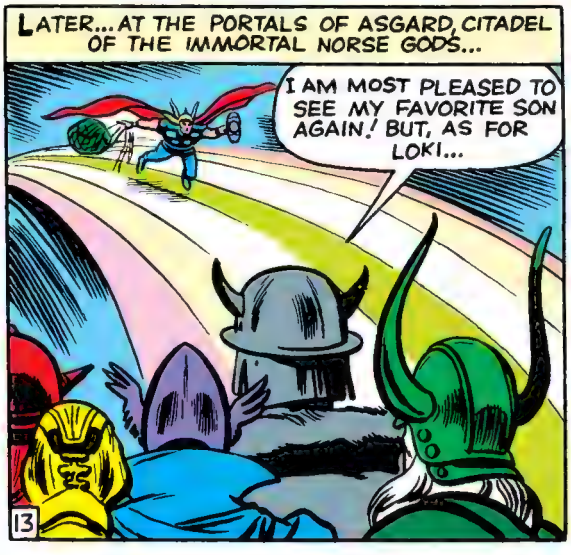
THOR IS A FOOL IF HE THINKS HE CAN CATCH ME! I'LL LET HIM GET CLOSE, JUST TO FRUSTRATE HIM, THEN I'LL CHANGE INTO A ROCKET AND VANISH!

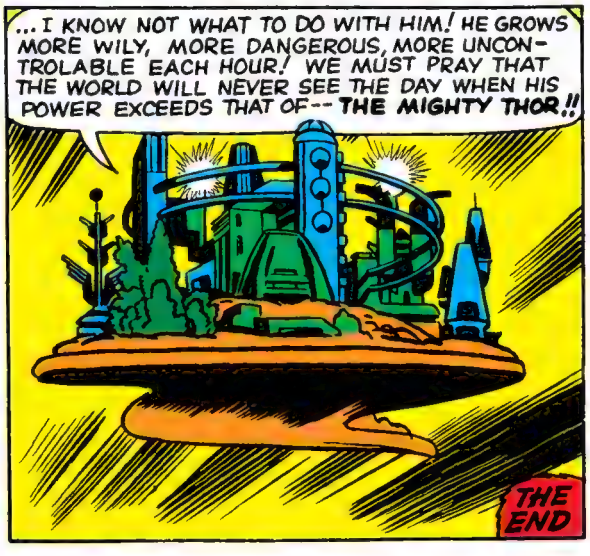
BUT, BEFORE LOKI CAN ACT...
A PERFECT CATCH!
THAT NET!! HOW--??


A MOMENT LATER, THE THUNDER GOD RETURNS TO EARTH WITH HIS CAPTIVE FOE...


BITTER IN DEFEAT, LOKI REVERTS TO HIS NATURAL FORM...
THEY LAUGH AT ME NOW... WHEN JUST HOURS AGO THE MERE MENTION OF MY NAME SENT A WAVE OF FEAR AROUND THE WORLD!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME NOW? OH NO--NOT THERE! YOU CAN'T TAKE ME THERE!!
I MUST! YOU ARE TOO DANGEROUS TO REMAIN AMONG THE HELPLESS MORTALS OF EARTH!


LATER... AT THE PORTALS OF ASGARD, CITADEL OF THE IMMORTAL NORSE GODS...
I AM MOST PLEASED TO SEE MY FAVORITE SON AGAIN! BUT, AS FOR LOKI...

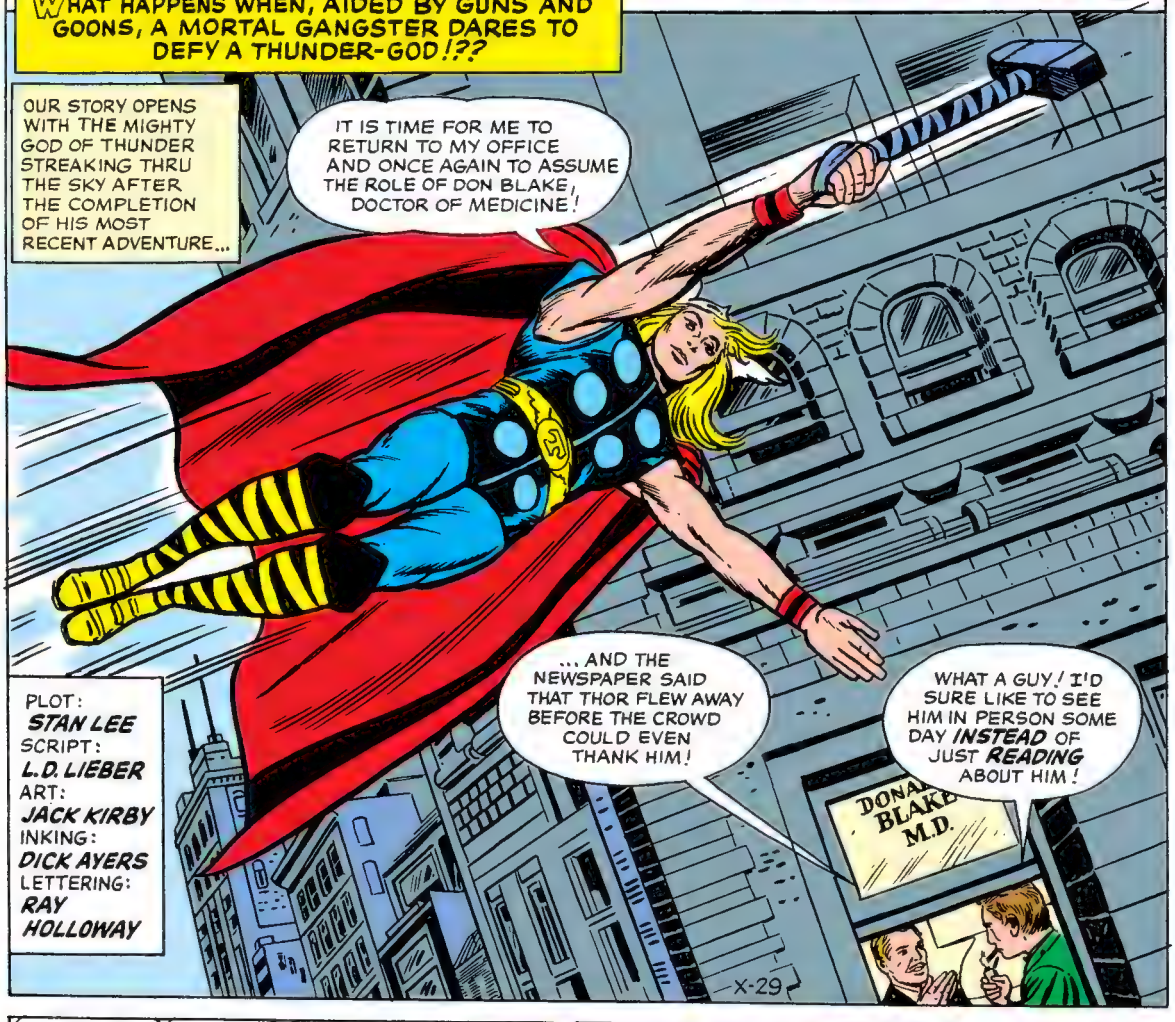

... I KNOW NOT WHAT TO DO WITH HIM! HE GROWS MORE WILY, MORE DANGEROUS, MORE UNCONTROLABLE EACH HOUR! WE MUST PRAY THAT THE WORLD WILL NEVER SEE THE DAY WHEN HIS POWER EXCEEDS THAT OF-- THE MIGHTY THOR!!
THE END

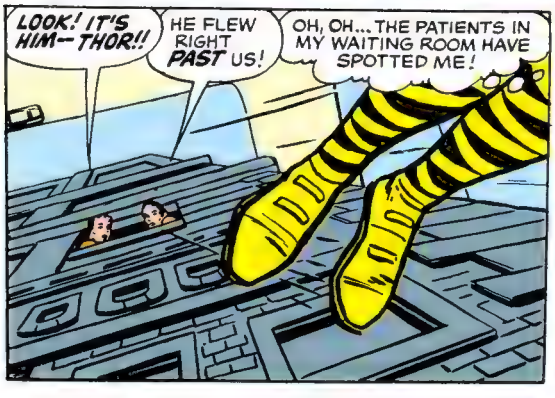
IND.
12¢
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
89 FEB.
STARRING THE MIGHTY...
THOR!
THE MOST COLORFUL SUPER-HERO OF ALL!!!
SEE THE HEROIC THUNDER-GOD BATTLE THE FORCES OF EVIL!!

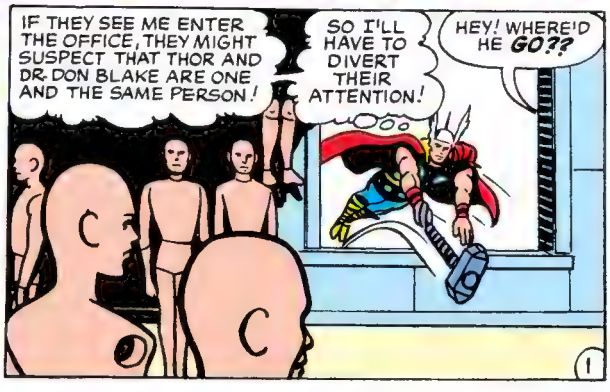
THE MIGHTY THOR!

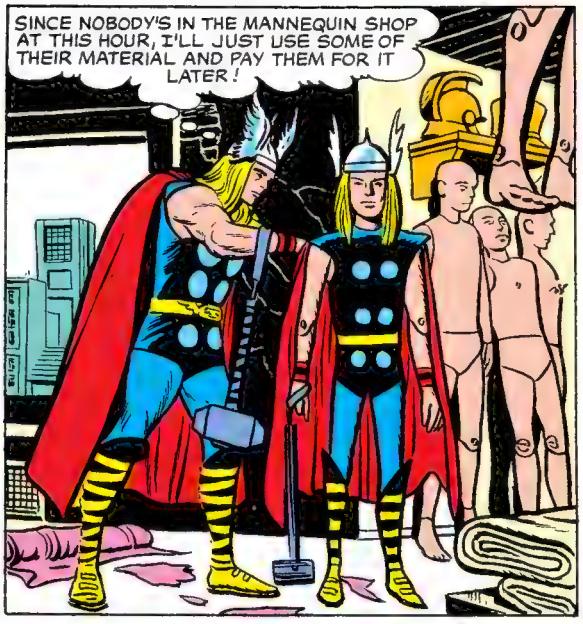
The THUNDER-GOD AND THE THUG!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN, AIDED BY GUNS AND GOONS, A MORTAL GANGSTER DARES TO DEFY A THUNDER-GOD!??


OUR STORY OPENS WITH THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER STREAKING THRU THE SKY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF HIS MOST RECENT ADVENTURE...
IT IS TIME FOR ME TO RETURN TO MY OFFICE AND ONCE AGAIN TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF DON BLAKE, DOCTOR OF MEDICINE!
PLOT: STAN LEE
SCRIPT: L.D. LIEBER
ART: JACK KIRBY
INKING: DICK AYERS
LETTERING: RAY HOLLOWAY
... AND THE NEWSPAPER SAID THAT THOR FLEW AWAY BEFORE THE CROWD COULD EVEN THANK HIM!
WHAT A GUY! I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE HIM IN PERSON SOME DAY INSTEAD OF JUST READING ABOUT HIM!
BLAKE M.D.
X-29

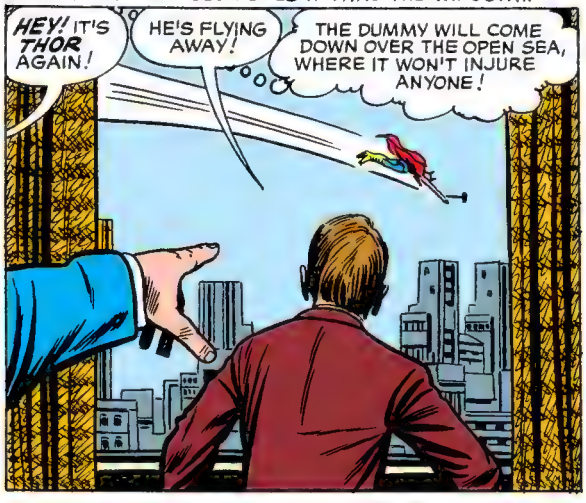



IF THEY SEE ME ENTER THE OFFICE, THEY MIGHT SUSPECT THAT THOR AND DR. DON BLAKE ARE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON!
SO I'LL HAVE TO DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION!
HEY! WHERE'D HE GO??

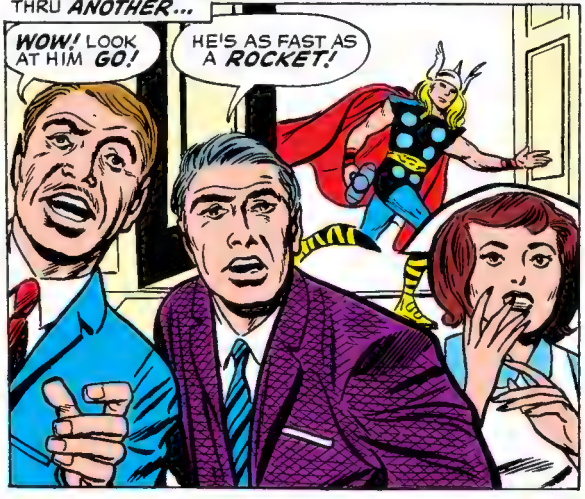


THERE! IT'S FINISHED! A SOMEWHAT CRUDE IMITATION OF ME, BUT IT'LL BE MOVING SO FAST THAT NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO TELL IT ISN'T THE REAL *THOR!*

LIFTING THE DUMMY AS THOUGH IT WERE WEIGHTLESS, THE MIGHTY THUNDER-GOD HURLS IT THRU THE WINDOW...

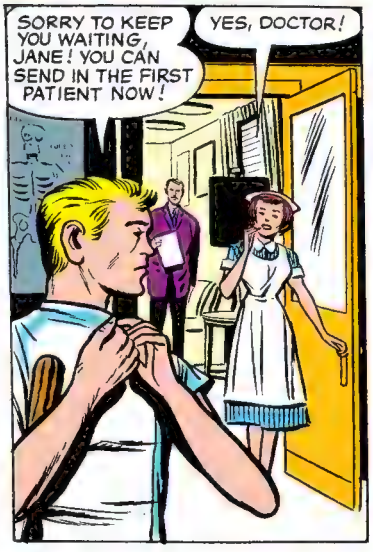


AND WHILE THE UNSUSPECTING PATIENTS WATCH THE MANNEQUIN THRU *ONE* WINDOW, THOR HIMSELF ENTERS THRU *ANOTHER*...



IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS OFFICE, THE MIGHTIEST FIGURE TO STRIDE THE EARTH REVERTS BACK TO THE FORM OF

... THE LAME DOCTOR DONALD BLAKE!

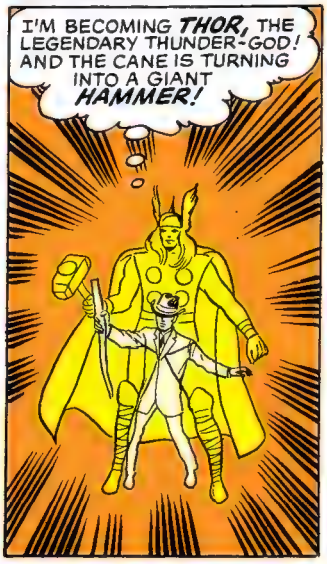


BUT AT THIS POINT, LET US PAUSE BRIEFLY AND REVIEW THE FANTASTIC *ORIGIN* OF THOR, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE READERS WHO MIGHT HAVE MISSED THE EARLIER ISSUES OF

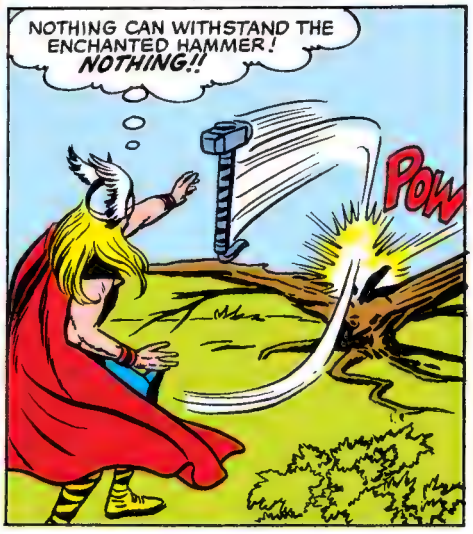
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

MANY MONTHS AGO, VACATIONING IN NORWAY, DR. DON BLAKE FOUND AN ANCIENT CANE IN A HIDDEN CAVE...

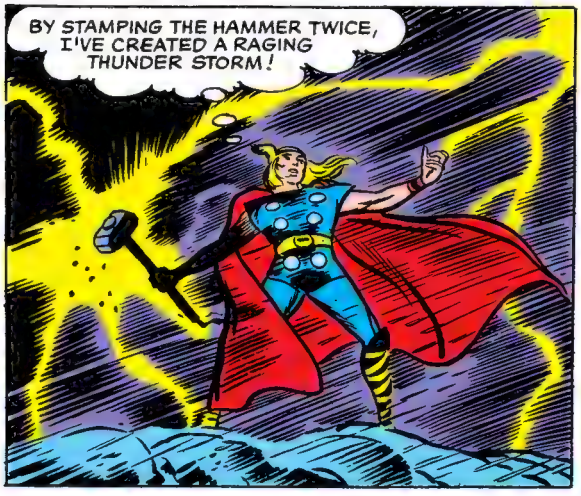
AND, WHEN THE LAME PHYSICIAN ACCIDENTALLY POUNDED THE CANE AGAINST THE GROUND...



IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE MYTH COME TO LIFE! AND, LIKE IN THE MYTH, THE MIGHTY HAMMER COULD ONLY BE LIFTED BY THOR... AND WHEN IT WAS HURLED, IT WOULD ALWAYS RETURN TO ITS MASTER!



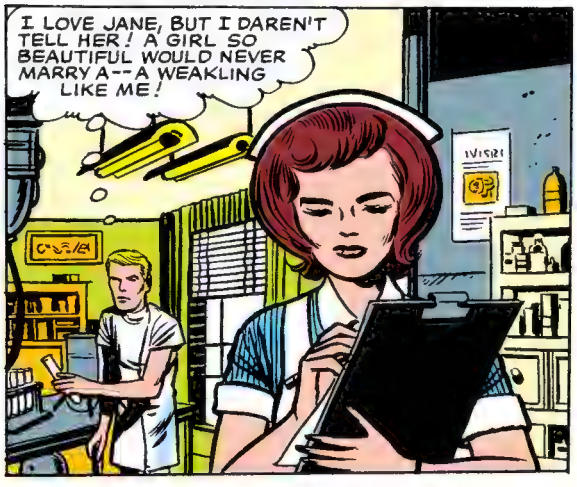
AIDED BY HIS POWERFUL WEAPON, THE GOD OF THUNDER COULD EVEN CONTROL THE VERY ELEMENTS THEMSELVES!



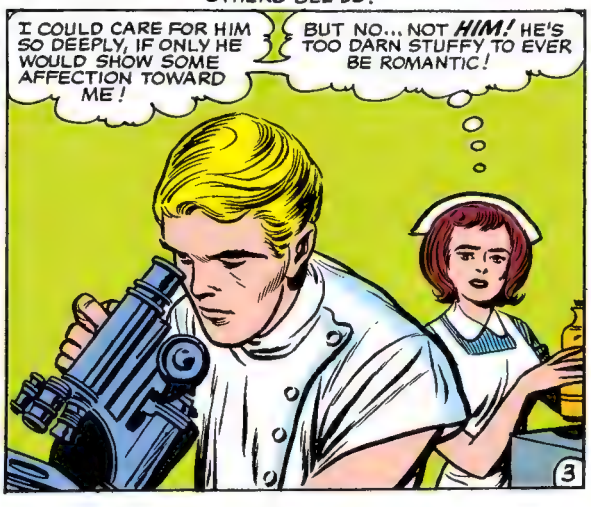
AND THEN, BENEATH THE WATCHFUL EYE OF ODIN, MASTER OF THE NORSE GODS AND FATHER OF THOR, A VOW WAS MADE...

I CARRY WITHIN THIS HAMMER THE GREATEST POWER EVER KNOWN TO MORTAL MAN! A POWER I SHALL NEVER USE, EXCEPT IN THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE AND AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL!

THUS WAS BORN THE MIGHTY THOR! BUT WHAT OF DON BLAKE, THE SECRET COUNTERPART OF THOR? HE IS A SUCCESSFUL PHYSICIAN, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT LESS SUCCESSFUL IN ANOTHER AREA...



BUT, AS THE POET ROBERT BURNS ONCE SAID... "OH, FOR THE GIFT THE GIFTIE GIE' US... TO SEE OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US!"


I COULD CARE FOR HIM SO DEEPLY, IF ONLY HE WOULD SHOW SOME AFFECTION TOWARD ME!
BUT NO... NOT HIM! HE'S TOO DARN STUFFY TO EVER BE ROMANTIC!

AND SO, THINKING DON BLAKE HAS NO ROMANTIC INTEREST IN HER, HIS LOVELY NURSE FILLS HER LONELY HOURS WITH DAY-DREAMS!

OH... THAT THOR! WHAT A ***MAN!*** I'LL BET ***HE'D*** NOTICE A GAL WHO WAS RIGHT UNDER HIS NOSE!

"AND ALTHOUGH HE'S BIG AND STRONG, I'D LOVE TO LOOK AFTER HIM! HE'D COMPLAIN ABOUT MY FUSSING, BUT I KNOW THAT HE'D SECRETLY ENJOY IT..."

YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER...

NONSENSE! YOUR HAMMER WILL LOOK MORE IMPRESSIVE POLISHED!

I'D BE ASHAMED IF MY BOSS WERE SEEN IN PUBLIC WITH A WRINKLED CLOAK!

I NEVER GAVE IT A THOUGHT BEFORE!

YOU'LL FEEL LOTS COOLER DURING THE SUMMER WITH YOUR HAIR SHORTER!

I FEEL BETTER ALREADY!

BUT, LET US LEAVE JANE FOSTER TO HER DAY-DREAMS AND RETURN TO THE PRESENT ONCE MORE...

HEY, ISN'T THAT ***THUG THATCHER,*** THE MOB LEADER?

YEAH! HE TRIED TO MUSCLE IN ON THE STEEL INDUSTRY!

THEY CAUGHT HIM SELLING SUB-STANDARD STEEL! NOW HE'S HEADED FOR PRISON!

BUT THE OCTOPUS OF CRIME HAS MANY TENTACLES...

HERE COMES THE CAR! GET READY!

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL HAVE THE BOSS FREE IN NO TIME!

IT'S THATCHER'S MOB!

I ***KNEW*** MY BOYS WOULDN'T LET ME DOWN!

BAM

MEANWHILE, IN DON BLAKE'S OFFICE...

THAT'S THE LAST PATIENT! YOU MAY GO HOME NOW, JANE!

THAT NOISE OUTSIDE... SOUNDS LIKE ***GUNFIRE!***

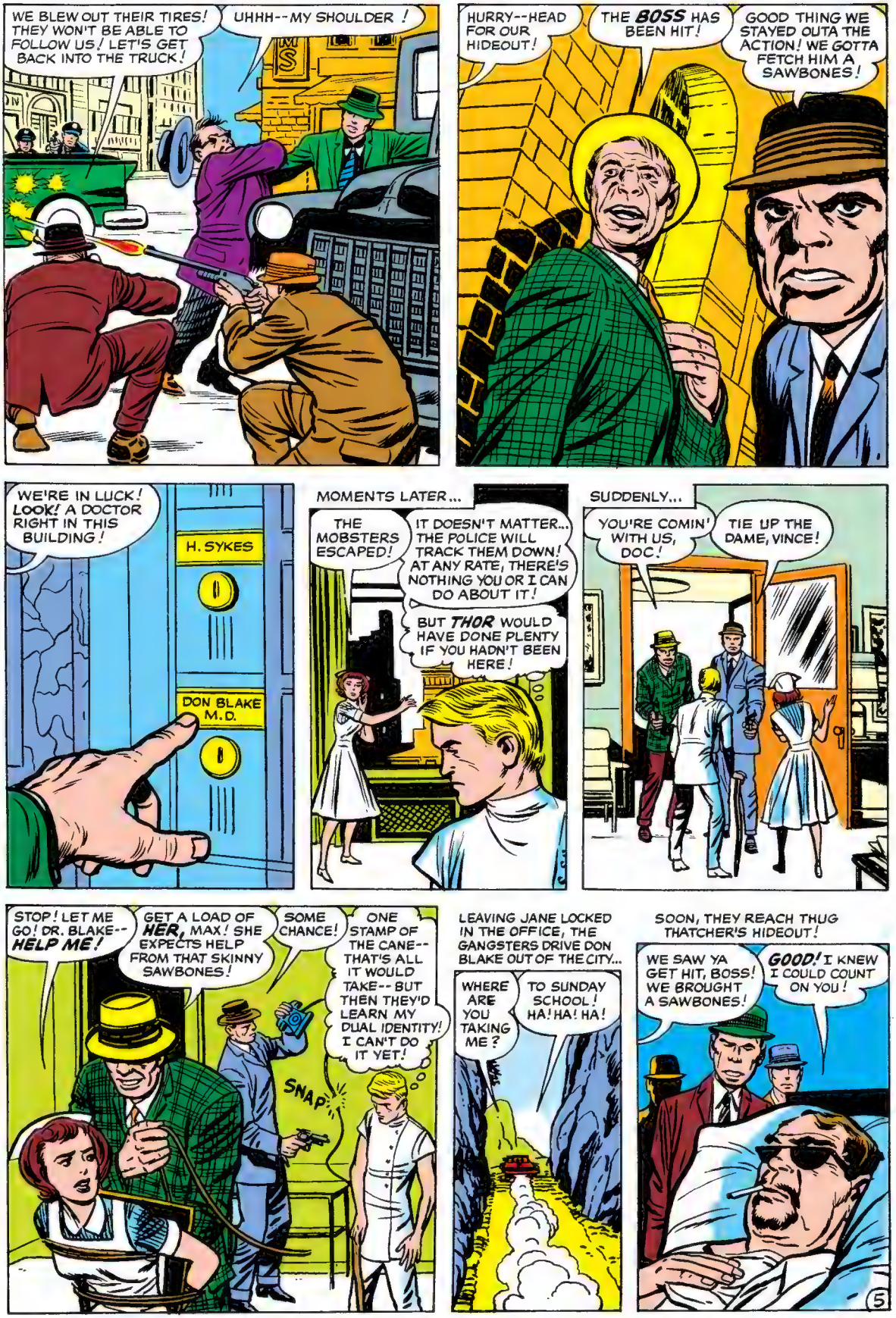
BANG BANG BANG

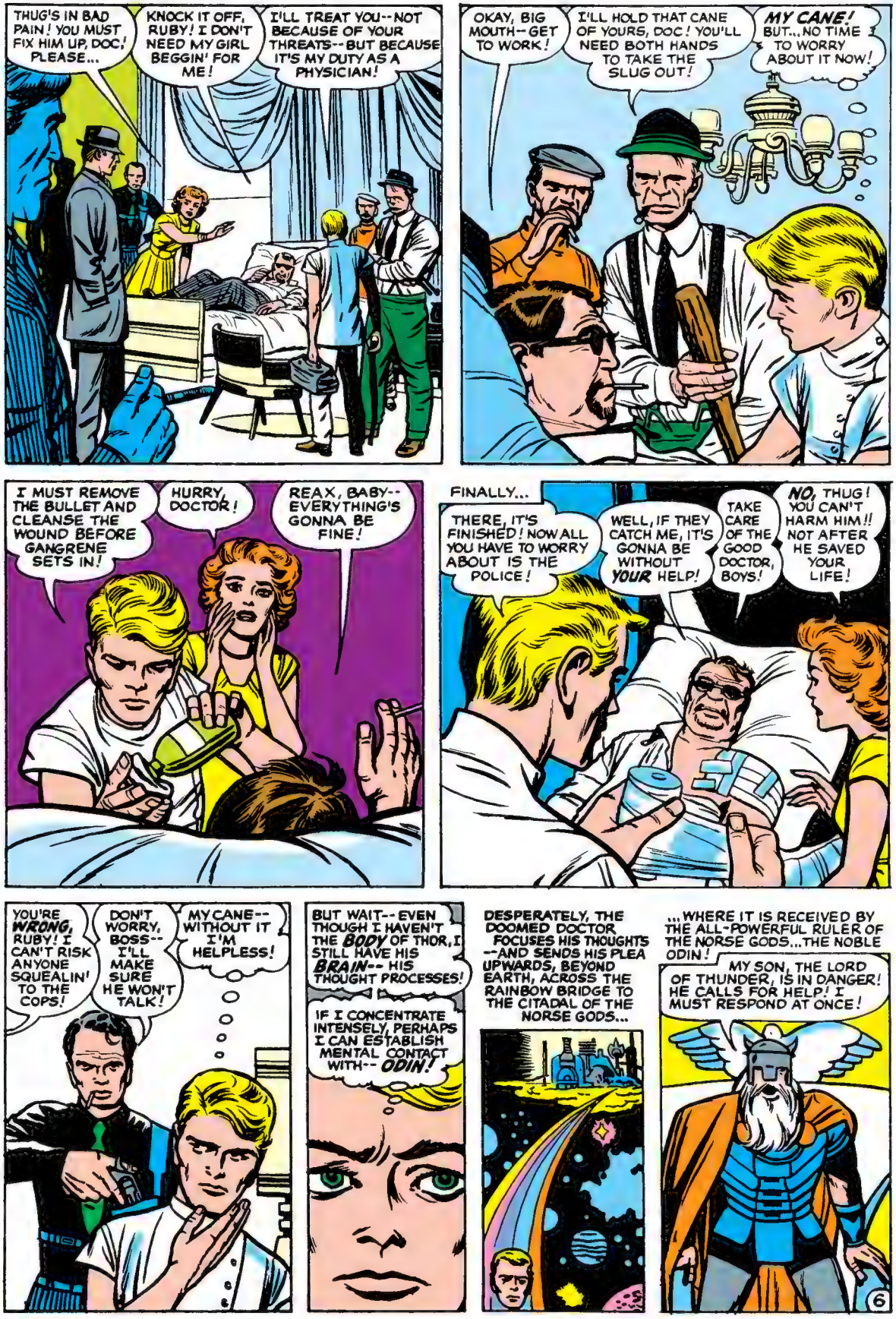
IT ***IS*** A GUN BATTLE! AND THE POLICE SEEM TO BE OUT-NUMBERED!

IF ONLY JANE WEREN'T HERE, I COULD CHANGE INTO THOR AND GO INTO ACTION! BUT NOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

BANG!

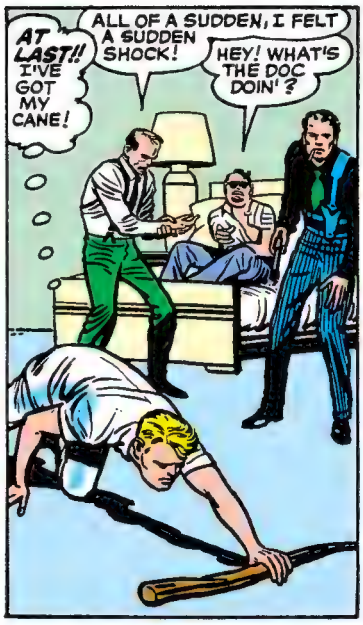
BANG!


WE BLEW OUT THEIR TIRES! THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW US! LET'S GET BACK INTO THE TRUCK!
UHHH--MY SHOULDER !
HURRY--HEAD FOR OUR HIDEOUT!
THE BOSS HAS BEEN HIT!
GOOD THING WE STAYED OUTA THE ACTION! WE GOTTA FETCH HIM A SAWBONES!
WE'RE IN LUCK! LOOK! A DOCTOR RIGHT IN THIS BUILDING!
H. SYKES
DON BLAKE M.D.
MOMENTS LATER...
THE MOBSTERS ESCAPED!
IT DOESN'T MATTER... THE POLICE WILL TRACK THEM DOWN! AT ANY RATE, THERE'S NOTHING YOU OR I CAN DO ABOUT IT!
BUT THOR WOULD HAVE DONE PLENTY IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE!
SUDDENLY...
YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US, DOC!
TIE UP THE DAME, VINCE!
STOP! LET ME GO! DR. BLAKE-- HELP ME!
GET A LOAD OF HER, MAX! SHE EXPECTS HELP FROM THAT SKINNY SAWBONES!
SOME CHANCE!
ONE STAMP OF THE CANE-- THAT'S ALL IT WOULD TAKE-- BUT THEN THEY'D LEARN MY DUAL IDENTITY! I CAN'T DO IT YET!
SNAP
LEAVING JANE LOCKED IN THE OFFICE, THE GANGSTERS DRIVE DON BLAKE OUT OF THE CITY...
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TO SUNDAY SCHOOL! HA! HA! HA!
SOON, THEY REACH THUG THATCHER'S HIDEOUT!
WE SAW YA GET HIT, BOSS! WE BROUGHT A SAWBONES!
GOOD! I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU!
5

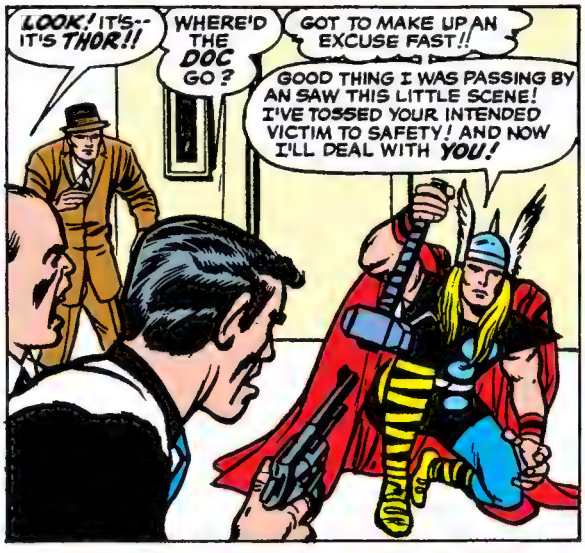

THUG'S IN BAD PAIN! YOU MUST FIX HIM UP, DOC, PLEASE...
KNOCK IT OFF, RUBY! I DON'T NEED MY GIRL BEGGIN' FOR ME!
I'LL TREAT YOU--NOT BECAUSE OF YOUR THREATS--BUT BECAUSE IT'S MY DUTY AS A PHYSICIAN!
OKAY, BIG MOUTH--GET TO WORK!
I'LL HOLD THAT CANE OF YOURS, DOC! YOU'LL NEED BOTH HANDS TO TAKE THE SLUG OUT!
MY CANE! BUT...NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT IT NOW!
I MUST REMOVE THE BULLET AND CLEANSE THE WOUND BEFORE GANGRENE SETS IN!
HURRY, DOCTOR!
REAX, BABY--EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE FINE!
FINALLY...
THERE, IT'S FINISHED! NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IS THE POLICE!
WELL, IF THEY CATCH ME, IT'S GONNA BE WITHOUT YOUR HELP!
TAKE CARE OF THE GOOD DOCTOR, BOYS!
NO, THUG! YOU CAN'T HARM HIM!! NOT AFTER HE SAVED YOUR LIFE!
YOU'RE WRONG, RUBY! I CAN'T RISK ANYONE SQUEALIN' TO THE COPS!
DON'T WORRY, BOSS--I'LL MAKE SURE HE WON'T TALK!
MY CANE--WITHOUT IT I'M HELPLESS!
BUT WAIT--EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T THE BODY OF THOR, I STILL HAVE HIS BRAIN--HIS THOUGHT PROCESSES!
IF I CONCENTRATE INTENSELY, PERHAPS I CAN ESTABLISH MENTAL CONTACT WITH--ODIN!
DESPERATELY, THE DOOMED DOCTOR FOCUSES HIS THOUGHTS --AND SENDS HIS PLEA UPWARDS, BEYOND EARTH, ACROSS THE RAINBOW BRIDGE TO THE CITADAL OF THE NORSE GODS...
...WHERE IT IS RECEIVED BY THE ALL-POWERFUL RULER OF THE NORSE GODS...THE NOBLE ODIN!
MY SON, THE LORD OF THUNDER, IS IN DANGER! HE CALLS FOR HELP! I MUST RESPOND AT ONCE!
6

USING HIS SUPREME POWER, ODIN CREATES FIRE AND LIGHTNING...

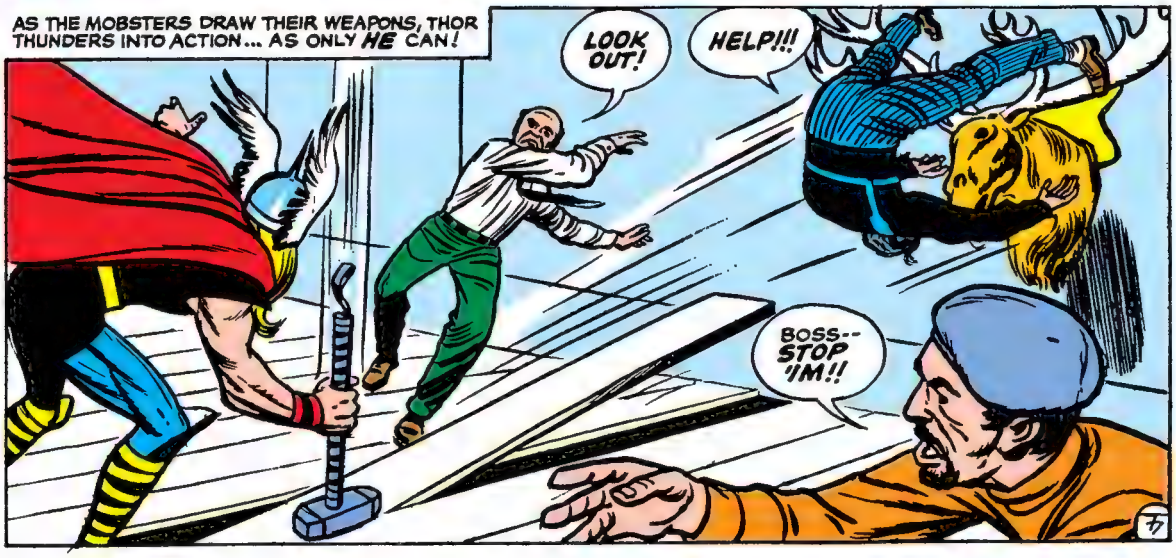
THEN, THE MIGHTY ODIN WILLS THE FORCE WAVE TO EARTH, WHERE IT STRIKES ITS HUMAN TARGET, SHOCKING HIM INTO DROPPING THE CANE, AS THOUGH IT WERE A RED HOT POKER!



STRIKING THE FLOOR WITH ALL HIS MIGHT, THE ONCE-PUNY DOCTOR AGAIN UNDERGOES THE WORLD'S MOST AWESOME TRANSFORMATION!

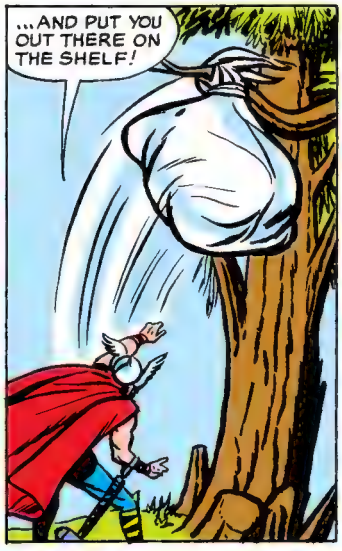

LOOK! IT'S-- IT'S THOR!!
WHERE'D THE DOC GO?
GOT TO MAKE UP AN EXCUSE FAST!!
GOOD THING I WAS PASSING BY AN SAW THIS LITTLE SCENE! I'VE TOSSED YOUR INTENDED VICTIM TO SAFETY! AND NOW I'LL DEAL WITH YOU!

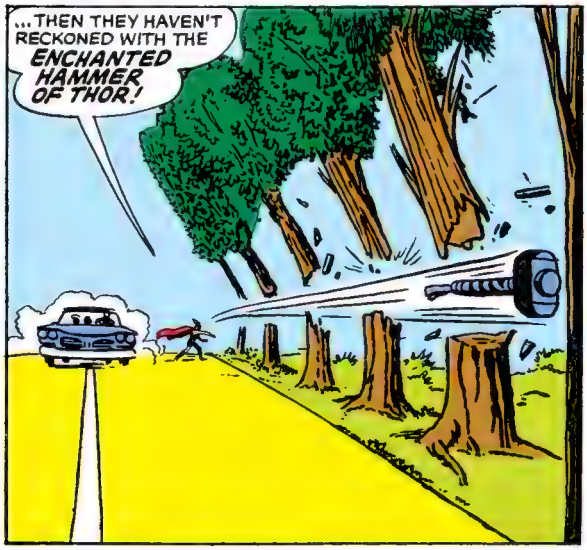
AS THE MOBSTERS DRAW THEIR WEAPONS, THOR THUNDERS INTO ACTION... AS ONLY HE CAN!

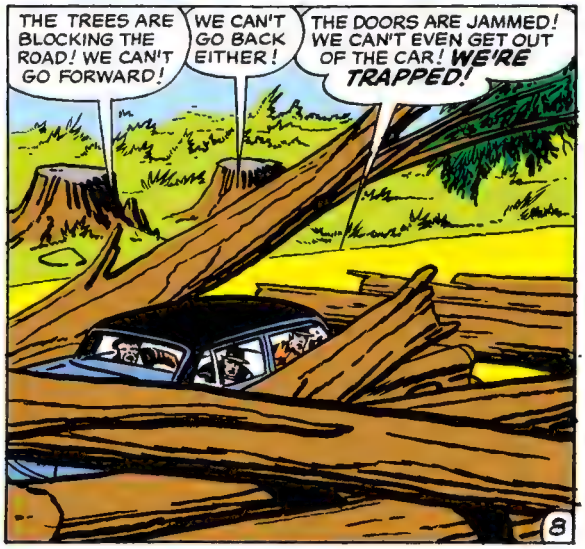


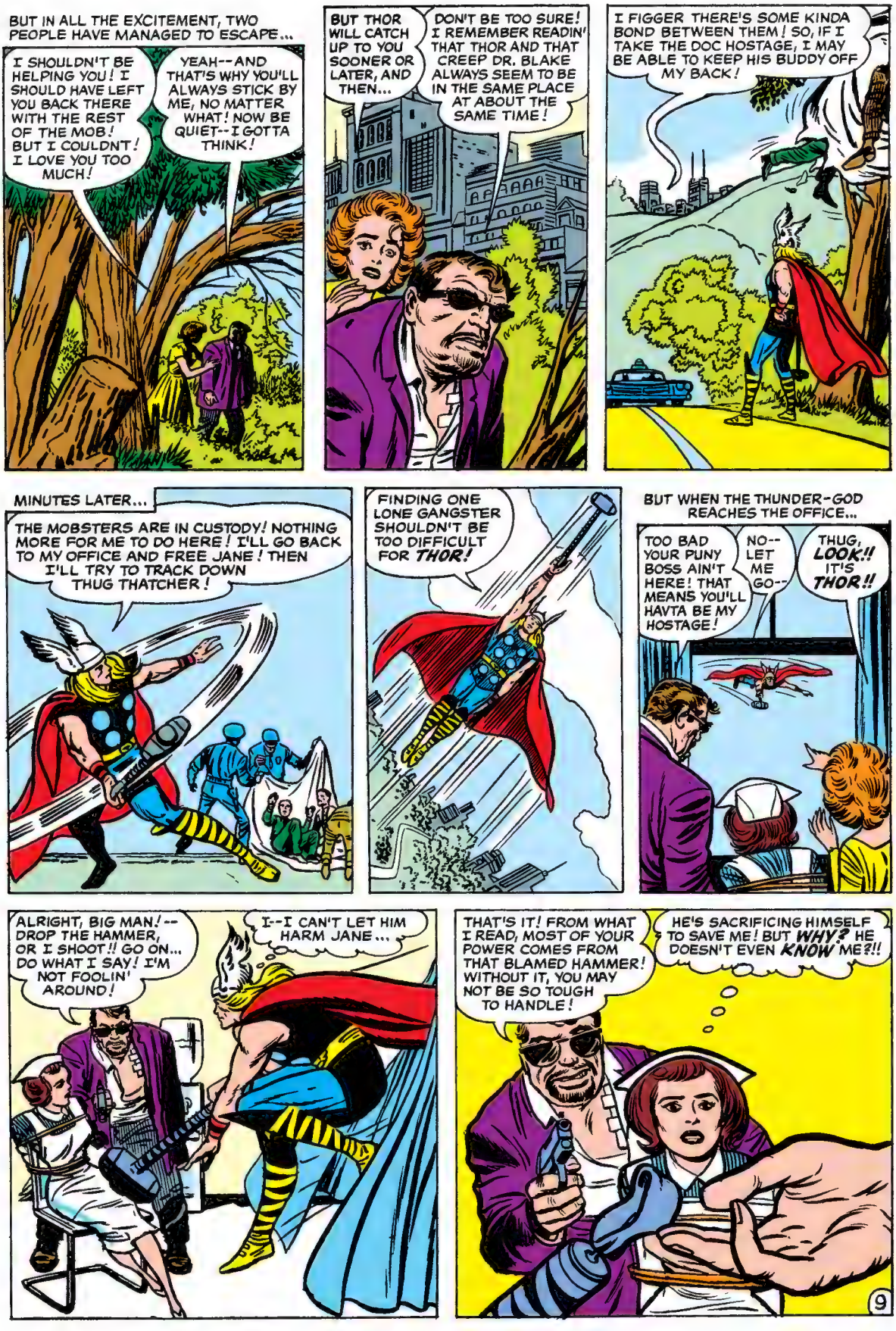
THUG, IT'S USELESS! NOBODY CAN DEFEAT THOR!
YEAH? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! GET HIM, BOYS!
ALRIGHT, STRONG-MAN, WE KNOW YA CAN DISH IT OUT! NOW LET'S SEE HOW YA TAKE IT!

BUT THE GUNMEN ARE NOT DESTINED TO FIND OUT... FOR BEFORE THEY CAN FIRE, THE MIGHTY THOR EXHALES WITH THE POWER OF A HURRICANE...



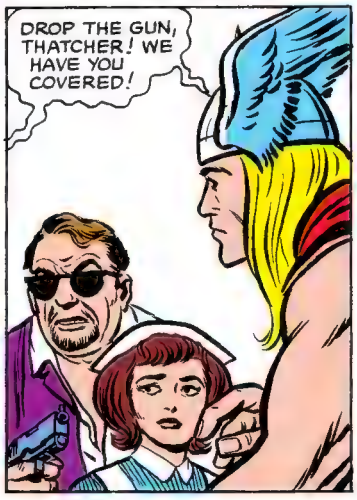



THE TREES ARE BLOCKING THE ROAD! WE CAN'T GO FORWARD!
WE CAN'T GO BACK EITHER!
THE DOORS ARE JAMMED! WE CAN'T EVEN GET OUT OF THE CAR! WE'RE TRAPPED!


BUT IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT, TWO PEOPLE HAVE MANAGED TO ESCAPE...
I SHOULDN'T BE HELPING YOU! I SHOULD HAVE LEFT YOU BACK THERE WITH THE REST OF THE MOB! BUT I COULDN'T! I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH!
YEAH--AND THAT'S WHY YOU'LL ALWAYS STICK BY ME, NO MATTER WHAT! NOW BE QUIET--I GOTTA THINK!
BUT THOR WILL CATCH UP TO YOU SOONER OR LATER, AND THEN...
DON'T BE TOO SURE! I REMEMBER READIN' THAT THOR AND THAT CREEP DR. BLAKE ALWAYS SEEM TO BE IN THE SAME PLACE AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME!
I FIGGER THERE'S SOME KINDA BOND BETWEEN THEM! SO, IF I TAKE THE DOC HOSTAGE, I MAY BE ABLE TO KEEP HIS BUDDY OFF MY BACK!
MINUTES LATER...
THE MOBSTERS ARE IN CUSTODY! NOTHING MORE FOR ME TO DO HERE! I'LL GO BACK TO MY OFFICE AND FREE JANE! THEN I'LL TRY TO TRACK DOWN THUG THATCHER!
FINDING ONE LONE GANGSTER SHOULDN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT FOR THOR!
BUT WHEN THE THUNDER-GOD REACHES THE OFFICE...
TOO BAD YOUR PUNY BOSS AIN'T HERE! THAT MEANS YOU'LL HAVTA BE MY HOSTAGE!
NO--LET ME GO--
THUG, LOOK!! IT'S THOR!!
ALRIGHT, BIG MAN!--DROP THE HAMMER, OR I SHOOT!! GO ON... DO WHAT I SAY! I'M NOT FOOLIN' AROUND!
I--I CAN'T LET HIM HARM JANE...
THAT'S IT! FROM WHAT I READ, MOST OF YOUR POWER COMES FROM THAT BLAMED HAMMER! WITHOUT IT, YOU MAY NOT BE SO TOUGH TO HANDLE!
HE'S SACRIFICING HIMSELF TO SAVE ME! BUT WHY? HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ME?!!
9

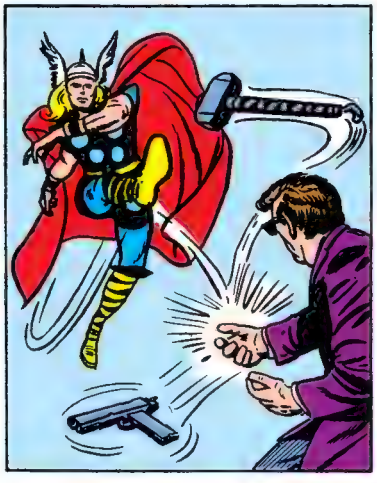
WHEN THE HAMMER IS OUT OF MY HANDS FOR SIXTY SECONDS, I'LL BECOME DON BLAKE AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO ACT BEFORE THEN, WHILE I'M STILL THOR! BUT WHAT CAN I DO??

AS THE PRECIOUS SECONDS TICK RAPIDLY AWAY, AN IDEA SUDDENLY COMES TO THOR! USING HIS SUPER-DEVELOPED VOCAL CORDS, HE THROWS HIS VOICE ACROSS THE ROOM...

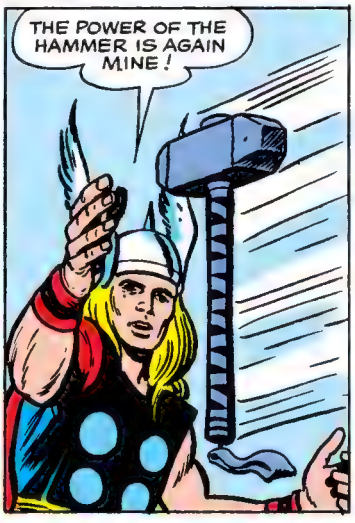


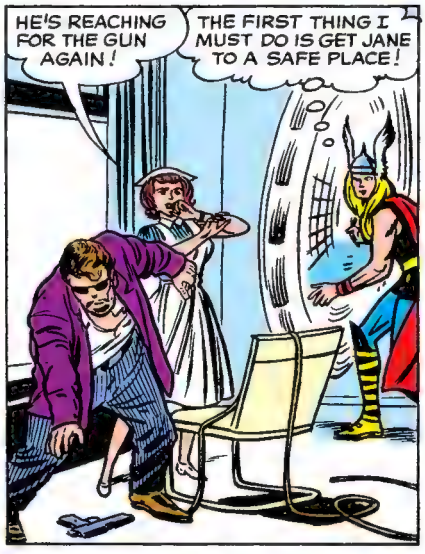
AND, AS THE STARTLED MOBSTER TURNS AROUND...

GUIDED UNERRINGLY BY THOR'S KICK, THE HAMMER KNOCKS THE GUN FROM THATCHER'S HAND...



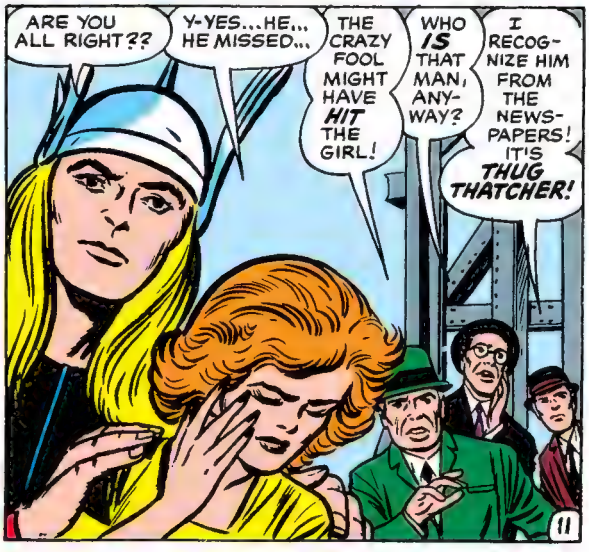
...AND RETURNS TO ITS MASTER!

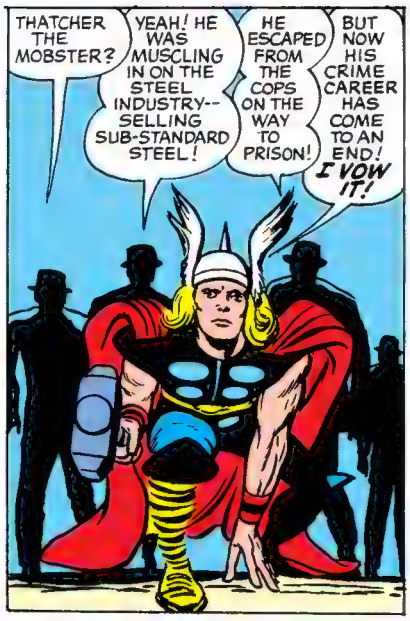


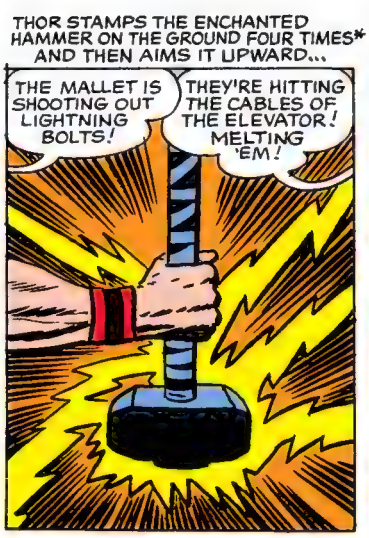


AND THE THUNDER-GOD SPINS HIS MAGIC MALLET SO FAST, THAT IT CREATES A MIGHTY UPDRAFT...

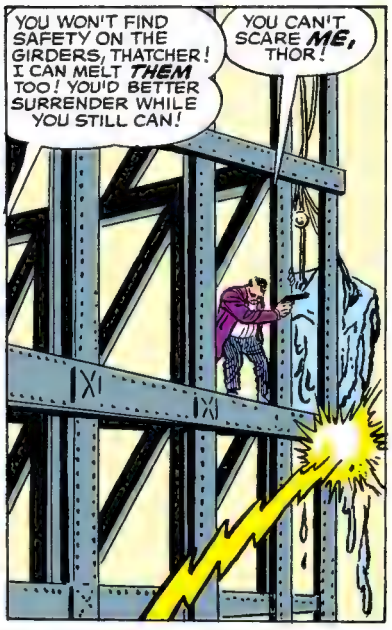
BUT THOR'S RESCUE OPERATION HAS GIVEN THE ENRAGED MOBSTER A CHANCE TO FLEE ONCE AGAIN!

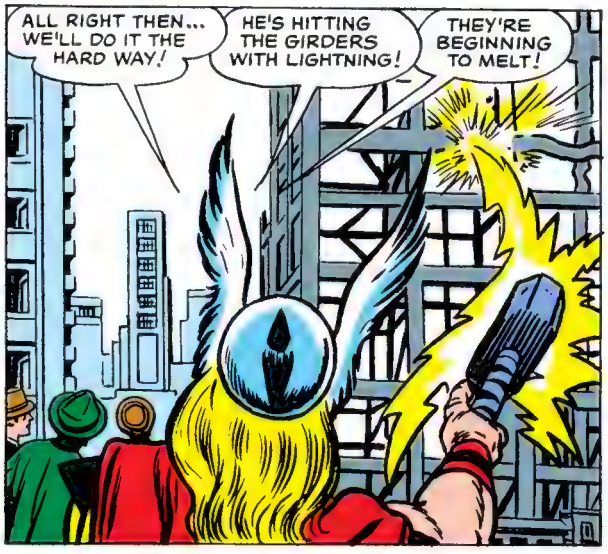

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT??
Y-YES...HE... HE MISSED...
THE CRAZY FOOL MIGHT HAVE HIT THE GIRL!
WHO IS THAT MAN, ANY-WAY?
I RECOG-NIZE HIM FROM THE NEWS-PAPERS! IT'S THUG THATCHER!

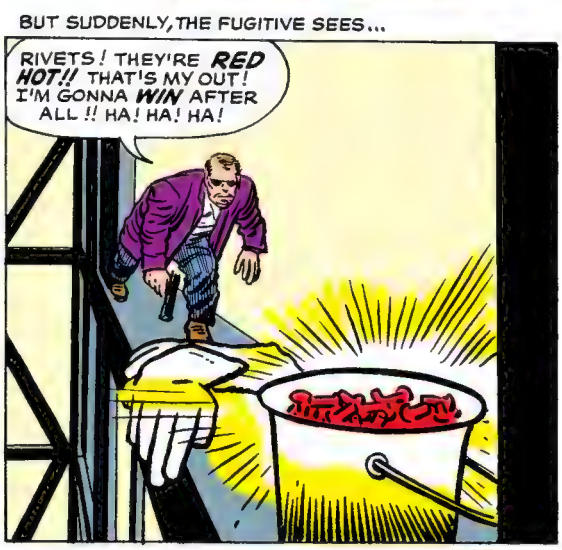

THATCHER THE MOBSTER?
YEAH! HE WAS MUSCLING IN ON THE STEEL INDUSTRY--SELLING SUB-STANDARD STEEL!
HE ESCAPED FROM THE COPS ON THE WAY TO PRISON!
BUT NOW HIS CRIME CAREER HAS COME TO AN END! I VOW IT!

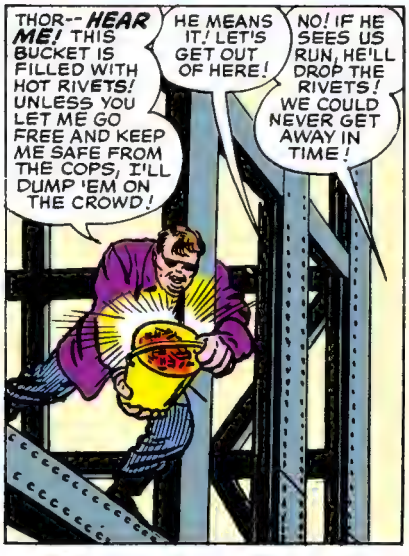

THOR STAMPS THE ENCHANTED HAMMER ON THE GROUND FOUR TIMES* AND THEN AIMS IT UPWARD...
THE MALLET IS SHOOTING OUT LIGHTNING BOLTS!
THEY'RE HITTING THE CABLES OF THE ELEVATOR! MELTING 'EM!

EDITOR'S NOTE: WHEN THOR'S HAMMER IS POUNDED FOUR TIMES, IT PRODUCES ***LIGHTNING!***

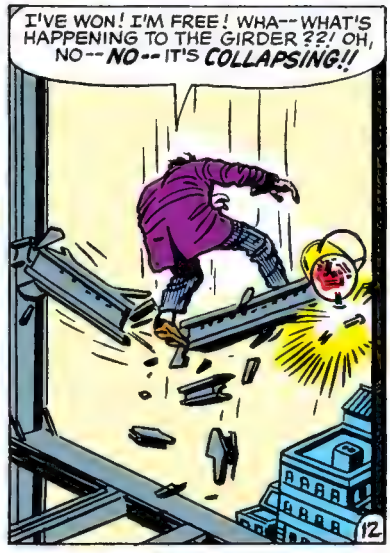

YOU WON'T FIND SAFETY ON THE GIRDERS, THATCHER! I CAN MELT THEM TOO! YOU'D BETTER SURRENDER WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
YOU CAN'T SCARE ME, THOR!



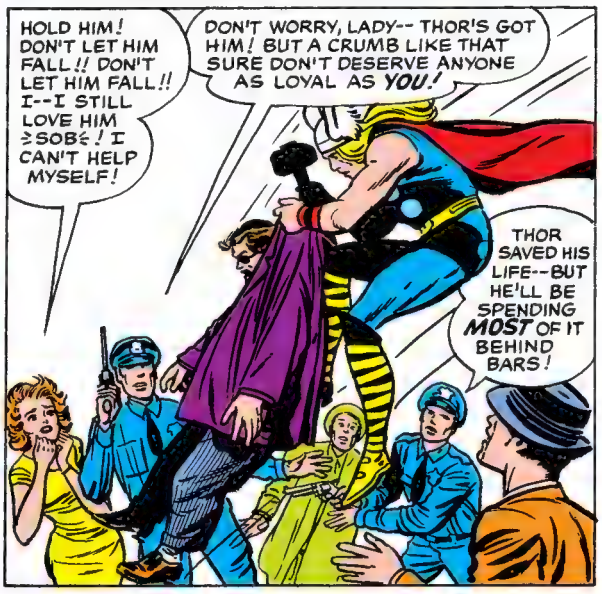


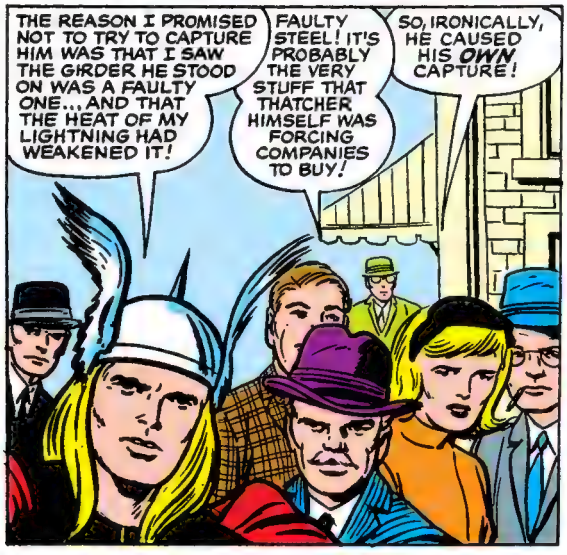

THOR--HEAR ME! THIS BUCKET IS FILLED WITH HOT RIVETS! UNLESS YOU LET ME GO FREE AND KEEP ME SAFE FROM THE COPS, I'LL DUMP 'EM ON THE CROWD!
HE MEANS IT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
NO! IF HE SEES US RUN, HE'LL DROP THE RIVETS! WE COULD NEVER GET AWAY IN TIME!

I CAN'T LET HIM ESCAPE! BUT I CAN'T ALLOW THESE INNOCENT PEOPLE TO BE HARMED! WHAT WILL I--WAIT--I SEE IT--! THAT'S THE ANSWER!
ALL RIGHT, THATCHER--I PROMISE NOT TO TRY TO CAPTURE YOU!



AND THUS DOES A CAREER IN VIOLENCE COME TO ITS END...

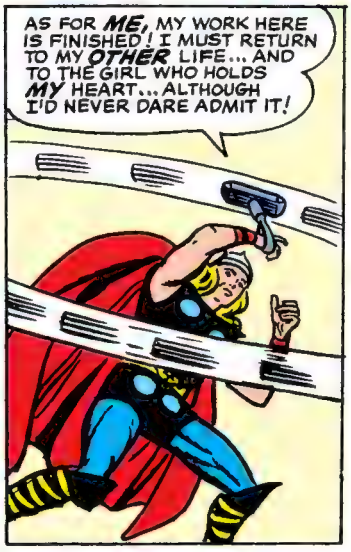

HOLD HIM! DON'T LET HIM FALL!! DON'T LET HIM FALL!! I--I STILL LOVE HIM ≥SOB≤! I CAN'T HELP MYSELF!
DON'T WORRY, LADY-- THOR'S GOT HIM! BUT A CRUMB LIKE THAT SURE DON'T DESERVE ANYONE AS LOYAL AS YOU!
THOR SAVED HIS LIFE--BUT HE'LL BE SPENDING MOST OF IT BEHIND BARS!


THE REASON I PROMISED NOT TO TRY TO CAPTURE HIM WAS THAT I SAW THE GIRDER HE STOOD ON WAS A FAULTY ONE... AND THAT THE HEAT OF MY LIGHTNING HAD WEAKENED IT!
FAULTY STEEL! IT'S PROBABLY THE VERY STUFF THAT THATCHER HIMSELF WAS FORCING COMPANIES TO BUY!
SO, IRONICALLY, HE CAUSED HIS OWN CAPTURE!

THEN THOR LIFTS HIS GAZE UPWARD, SILENTLY ASKING ODIN, THE LORD OF ASGARD, FOR ONE MORE BOON...

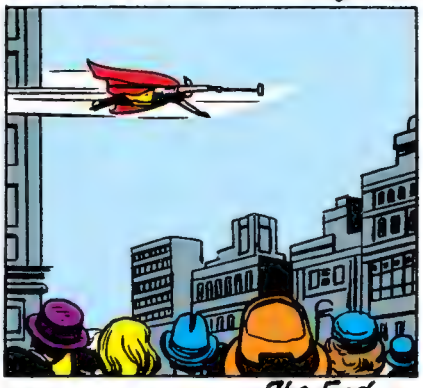
AND, AN INSTANT LATER, AN INSTANT OF WHAT WE MORTALS CALL TIME, THE REQUEST IS GRANTED...

THE MEMORY OF THUG THATCHER IS FOREVER REMOVED FROM HER MIND! SHE IS FREE OF HER TRAGIC LOVE! FREE TO FIND ONE WHO WILL BE WORTHY OF HER!
13


AS FOR ME, MY WORK HERE IS FINISHED! I MUST RETURN TO MY OTHER LIFE... AND TO THE GIRL WHO HOLDS MY HEART... ALTHOUGH I'D NEVER DARE ADMIT IT!

NEXT ISSUE: THOR BATTLES A FOE WHOSE POWERS SEEM TO BE GREATER THAN THOSE OF THE THUNDER-GOD HIMSELF!! DON'T MISS THOR AS HE FACES:

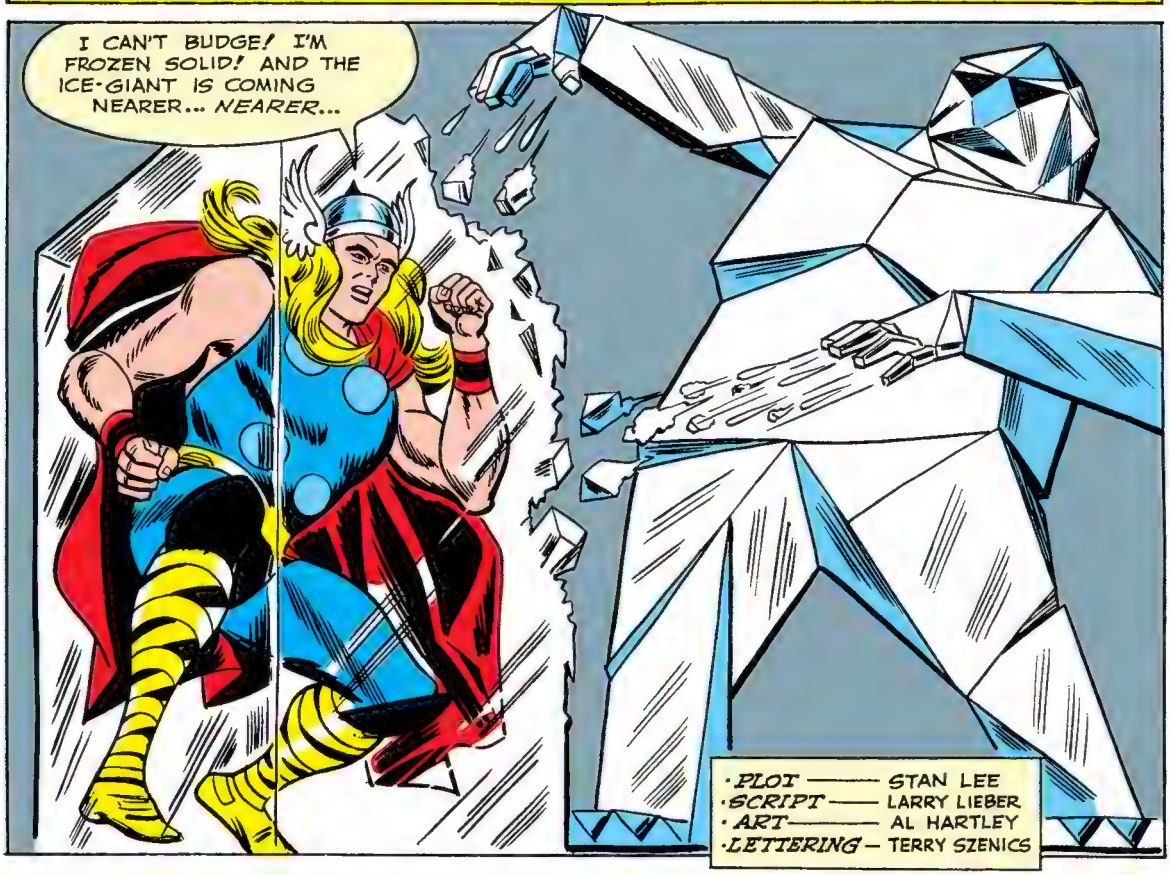
"THE CARBON-COPY MAN!"

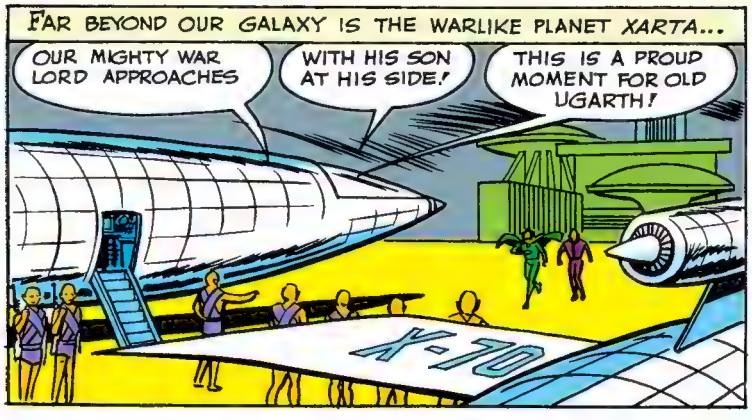


The End

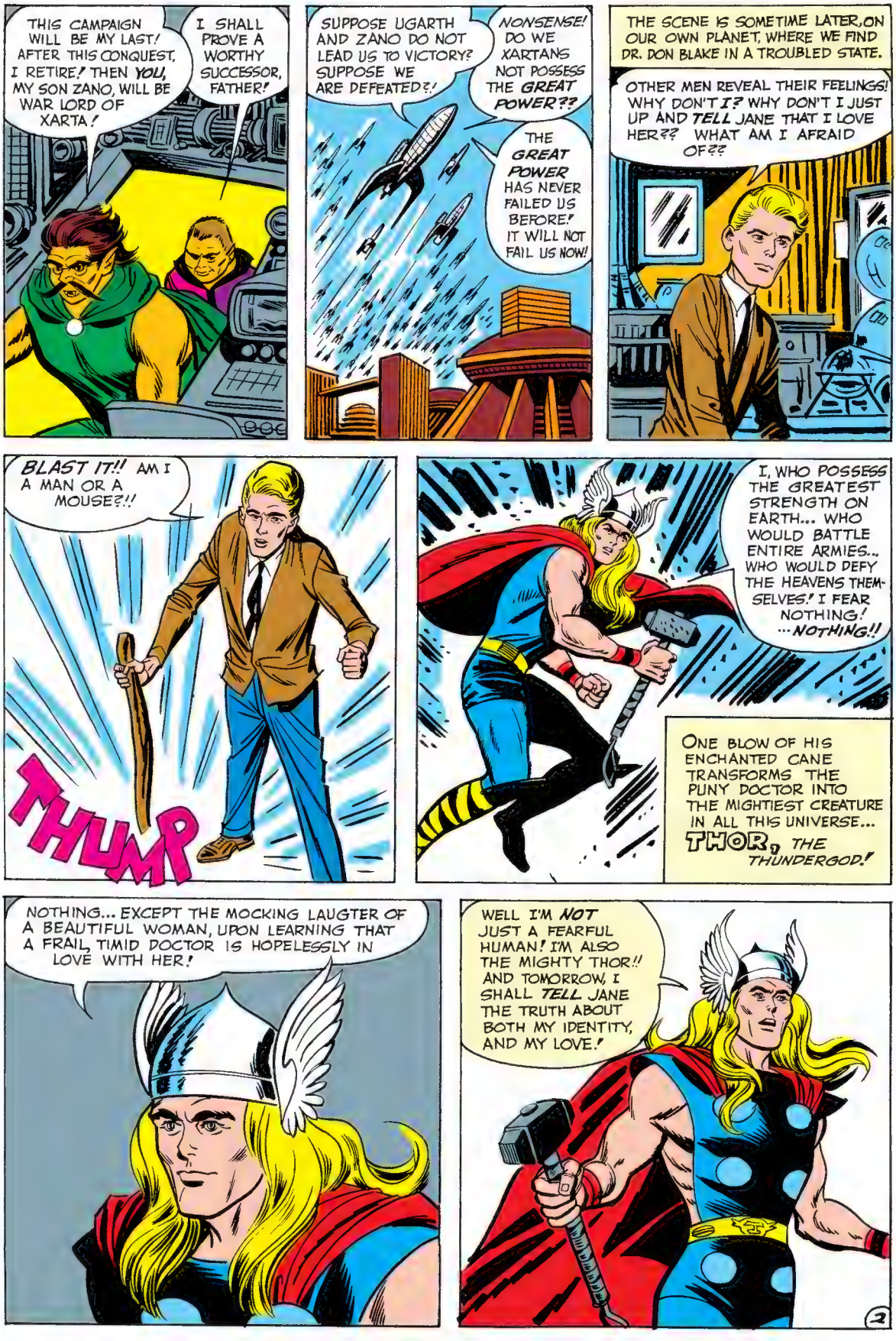
IND.
12¢
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
90
MAR.
Starring THE MIGHTY THOR
--BATTLING THE SUPER-CREATURE FROM SPACE... THE CARBON COPY MAN!
IN ANOTHER SECOND YOU WILL BE ETERNALLY TRAPPED IN A BLOCK OF UNBREAKABLE ICE! THIS IS THE END OF MIGHTY THOR!

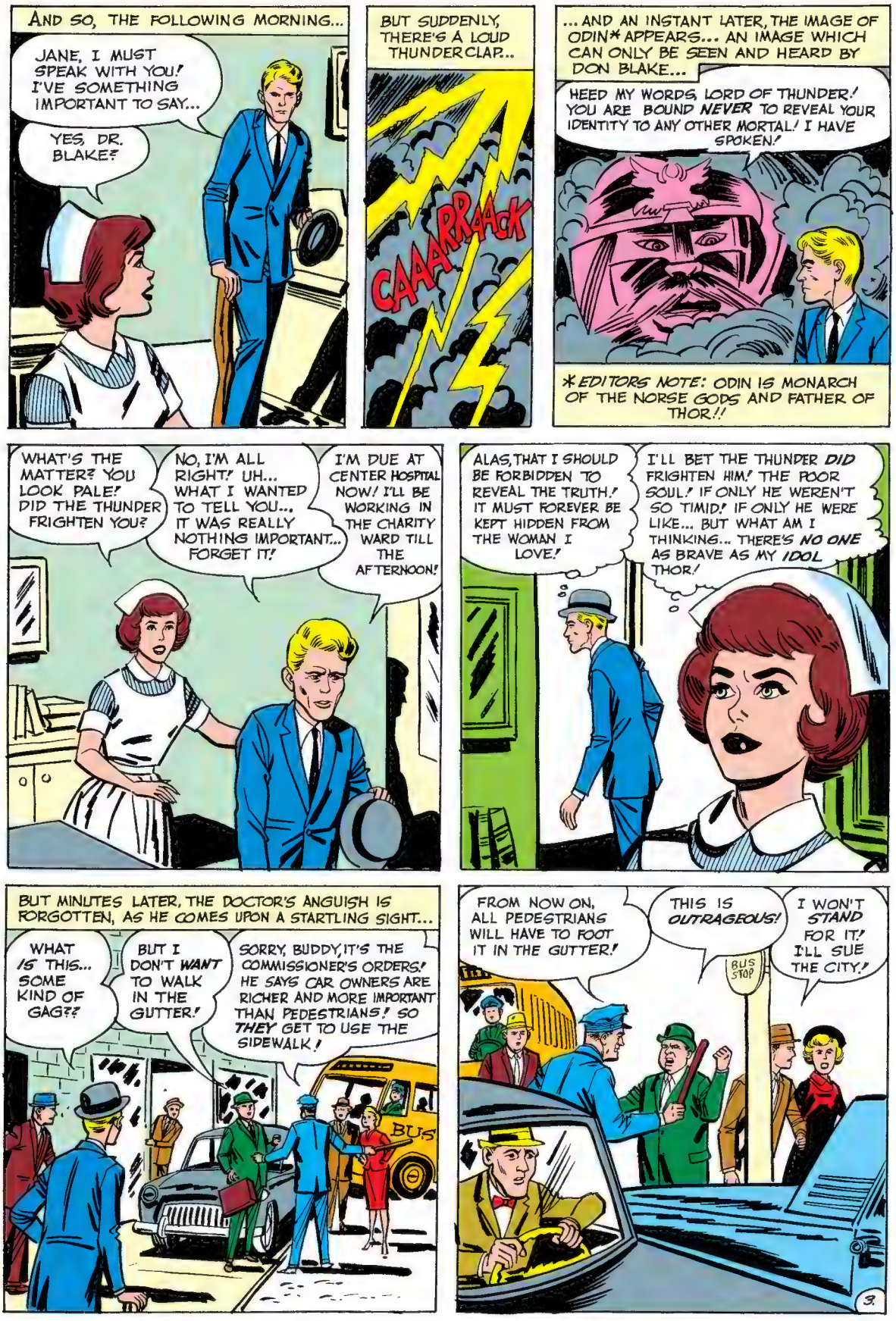
THE MIGHTY THOR! "TRAPPED BY THE CARBON-COPY MAN!"

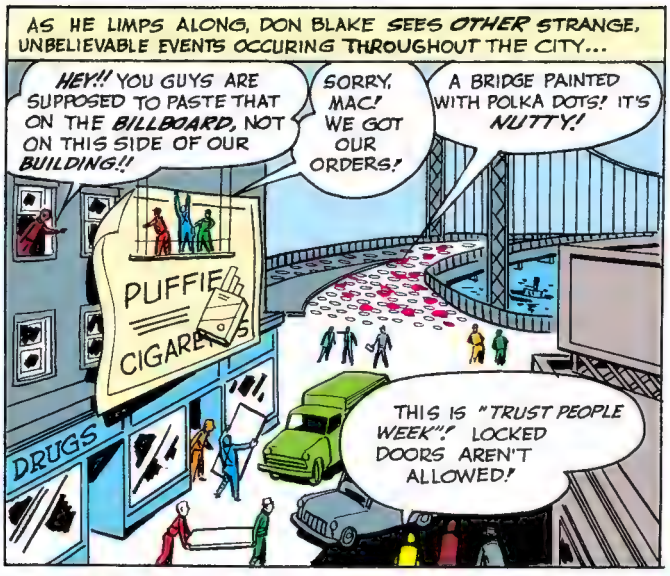

I CAN'T BUDGE! I'M FROZEN SOLID! AND THE ICE-GIANT IS COMING NEARER... NEARER...
·PLOT —— STAN LEE
·SCRIPT —— LARRY LIEBER
·ART —— AL HARTLEY
·LETTERING — TERRY SZENICS


FAR BEYOND OUR GALAXY IS THE WARLIKE PLANET XARTA...
OUR MIGHTY WAR LORD APPROACHES
WITH HIS SON AT HIS SIDE!
THIS IS A PROUD MOMENT FOR OLD UGARTH!
X-70

YOU WILL SOON HAVE YOUR FIRST TASTE OF BATTLE! BE CLEVER AND RUTHLESS! SHOW THE ENEMY NO MERCY!
FEAR NOT, FATHER! I SHALL PROVE AS CUNNING AND CRUEL AS YOU YOURSELF! TOGETHER WE SHALL CONQUER ALL!


THIS CAMPAIGN WILL BE MY LAST! AFTER THIS CONQUEST, I RETIRE! THEN YOU, MY SON ZANO, WILL BE WAR LORD OF XARTA!
I SHALL PROVE A WORTHY SUCCESSOR, FATHER!
SUPPOSE UGARTH AND ZANO DO NOT LEAD US TO VICTORY? SUPPOSE WE ARE DEFEATED?!
NONSENSE! DO WE XARTANS NOT POSSESS THE GREAT POWER??
THE GREAT POWER HAS NEVER FAILED US BEFORE! IT WILL NOT FAIL US NOW!
THE SCENE IS SOMETIME LATER, ON OUR OWN PLANET, WHERE WE FIND DR. DON BLAKE IN A TROUBLED STATE.
OTHER MEN REVEAL THEIR FEELINGS! WHY DON'T I? WHY DON'T I JUST UP AND TELL JANE THAT I LOVE HER?? WHAT AM I AFRAID OF??
BLAST IT!! AM I A MAN OR A MOUSE?!!
THUMP
I, WHO POSSESS THE GREATEST STRENGTH ON EARTH... WHO WOULD BATTLE ENTIRE ARMIES... WHO WOULD DEFY THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES! I FEAR NOTHING! ...NOTHING!!
ONE BLOW OF HIS ENCHANTED CANE TRANSFORMS THE PUNY DOCTOR INTO THE MIGHTIEST CREATURE IN ALL THIS UNIVERSE... THOR, THE THUNDERGOD!
NOTHING... EXCEPT THE MOCKING LAUGTER OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, UPON LEARNING THAT A FRAIL, TIMID DOCTOR IS HOPELESSLY IN LOVE WITH HER!
WELL I'M NOT JUST A FEARFUL HUMAN! I'M ALSO THE MIGHTY THOR!! AND TOMORROW, I SHALL TELL JANE THE TRUTH ABOUT BOTH MY IDENTITY, AND MY LOVE!
2


AND SO, THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
JANE, I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU! I'VE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY...
YES, DR. BLAKE?
BUT SUDDENLY, THERE'S A LOUD THUNDERCLAP...
CAAARRRAACK
...AND AN INSTANT LATER, THE IMAGE OF ODIN* APPEARS... AN IMAGE WHICH CAN ONLY BE SEEN AND HEARD BY DON BLAKE...
HEED MY WORDS, LORD OF THUNDER! YOU ARE BOUND NEVER TO REVEAL YOUR IDENTITY TO ANY OTHER MORTAL! I HAVE SPOKEN!
*EDITORS NOTE: ODIN IS MONARCH OF THE NORSE GODS AND FATHER OF THOR!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK PALE! DID THE THUNDER FRIGHTEN YOU?
NO, I'M ALL RIGHT! UH... WHAT I WANTED TO TELL YOU... IT WAS REALLY NOTHING IMPORTANT... FORGET IT!
I'M DUE AT CENTER HOSPITAL NOW! I'LL BE WORKING IN THE CHARITY WARD TILL THE AFTERNOON!
ALAS, THAT I SHOULD BE FORBIDDEN TO REVEAL THE TRUTH! IT MUST FOREVER BE KEPT HIDDEN FROM THE WOMAN I LOVE!
I'LL BET THE THUNDER DID FRIGHTEN HIM! THE POOR SOUL! IF ONLY HE WEREN'T SO TIMID! IF ONLY HE WERE LIKE... BUT WHAT AM I THINKING... THERE'S NO ONE AS BRAVE AS MY IDOL THOR!
BUT MINUTES LATER, THE DOCTOR'S ANGUISH IS FORGOTTEN, AS HE COMES UPON A STARTLING SIGHT...
WHAT IS THIS... SOME KIND OF GAG??
BUT I DON'T WANT TO WALK IN THE GUTTER!
SORRY, BUDDY, IT'S THE COMMISSIONER'S ORDERS! HE SAYS CAR OWNERS ARE RICHER AND MORE IMPORTANT THAN PEDESTRIANS! SO THEY GET TO USE THE SIDEWALK!
BUS
FROM NOW ON, ALL PEDESTRIANS WILL HAVE TO FOOT IT IN THE GUTTER!
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS!
I WON'T STAND FOR IT! I'LL SUE THE CITY!
BUS STOP
3.

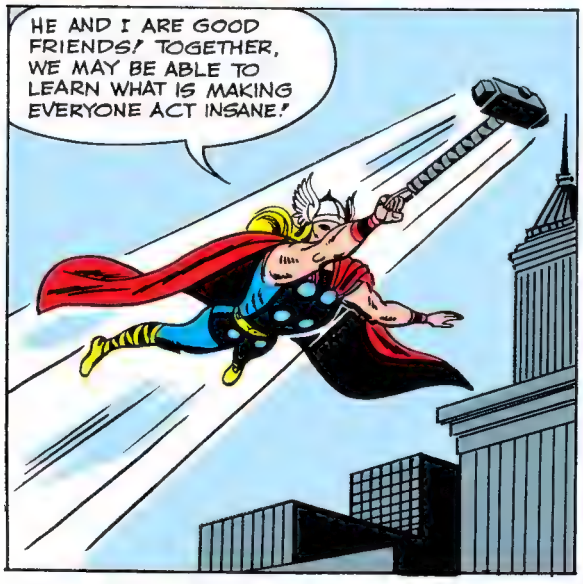

AS HE LIMPS ALONG, DON BLAKE SEES OTHER STRANGE, UNBELIEVABLE EVENTS OCCURING THROUGHOUT THE CITY...
HEY!! YOU GUYS ARE SUPPOSED TO PASTE THAT ON THE BILLBOARD, NOT ON THIS SIDE OF OUR BUILDING!!
SORRY, MAC! WE GOT OUR ORDERS!
A BRIDGE PAINTED WITH POLKA DOTS! IT'S NUTTY!
PUFFIE
CIGARETTES
DRUGS
THIS IS "TRUST PEOPLE WEEK"! LOCKED DOORS AREN'T ALLOWED!

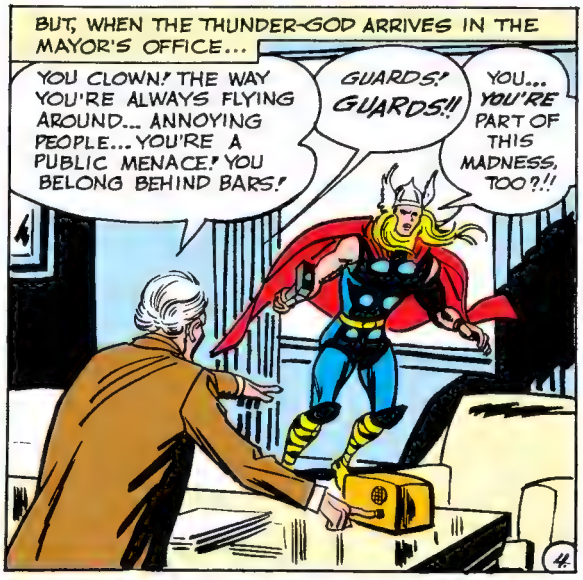
AND THAT AFTERNOON, WHEN THE DOCTOR RETURNS TO HIS OFFICE...
A SUMMONS... FOR TREATING CHARITY PATIENTS! IT SAYS ITS AGAINST THE LAW!
THE PEOPLE DOWN AT CITY HALL MUST HAVE LOST THEIR SENSES!
NO! THEY ARE PERFECTLY RIGHT!!

WHAT?! YOU, TOO?
YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS TREATING PEOPLE WITHOUT CHARGE! IF THEY'RE TOO POOR TO PAY, YOU SHOULD LET THEM REMAIN SICK! THEY DESERVE TO BE ILL!

I REFUSE TO WORK FOR A SOFT-HEARTED FOOL! ESPECIALLY WHEN HE'S A QUACK WHO DOESN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT MEDICINE! GOOD-BYE!!
JANE, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!! JANE!!!

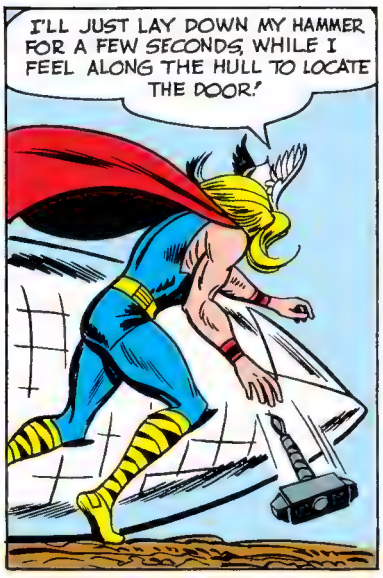
HAS THE WHOLE CITY GONE MAD...OR IS IT SOMETHING MORE SINISTER?!... MAYOR HARRIS!! IF ANYONE WOULD HAVE THE ANSWER, HE WOULD!

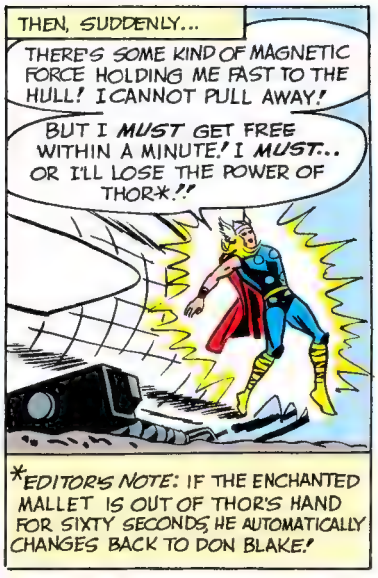

HE AND I ARE GOOD FRIENDS! TOGETHER, WE MAY BE ABLE TO LEARN WHAT IS MAKING EVERYONE ACT INSANE!

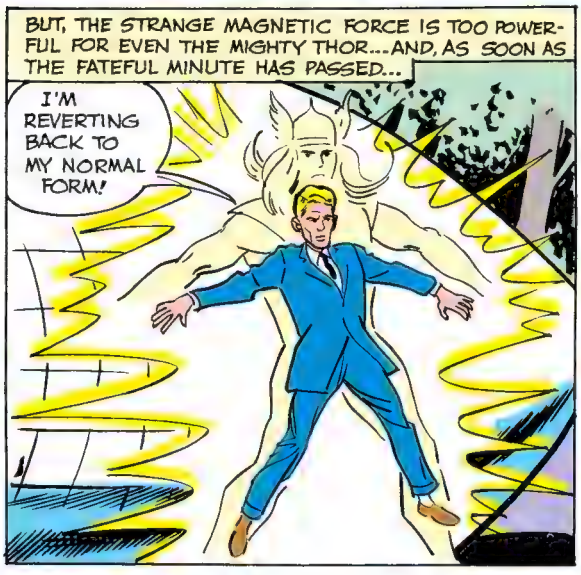

BUT, WHEN THE THUNDER-GOD ARRIVES IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE...
YOU CLOWN! THE WAY YOU'RE ALWAYS FLYING AROUND... ANNOYING PEOPLE... YOU'RE A PUBLIC MENACE! YOU BELONG BEHIND BARS!
GUARDS! GUARDS!!
YOU... YOU'RE PART OF THIS MADNESS, TOO?!!

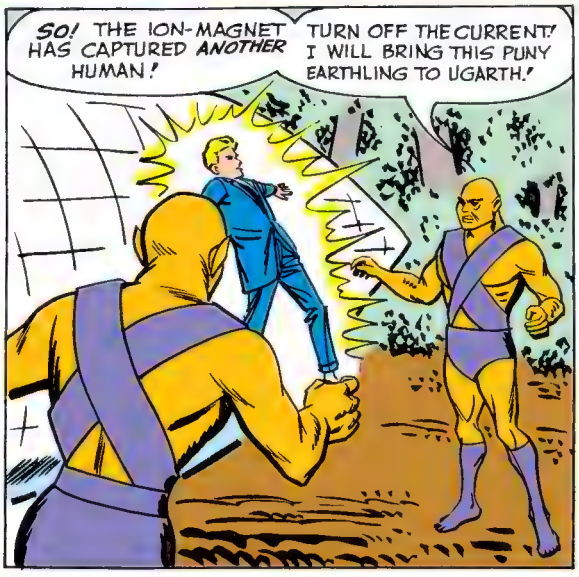
ARREST THAT COSTUMED PEST! HURRY! ARREST HIM!!
SORRY--- BUT I HAVE OTHER PLANS!
HIS HAMMER IS EVERYWHERE AT ONCE! ---CAN'T GET NEAR HIM!
HE'S HURLED THE MALLET OUT THE WINDOW! HE'S ESCAPING!
HE'S MOVING SO FAST I CAN'T GET A BEAD ON HIM!
LATER, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...
I'LL REST AWHILE AND TRY TO FIND THE ANSWER TO A CITY GONE MAD!
I HAVE AN IDEA... I'LL SEND MY MIND BACK IN TIME AND SPACE, TO ASGARD* ON A DAY WHEN ODIN COUNSELED HIS SONS!
* EDITOR'S NOTE: ASGARD IS THE CITADEL OF THE NORSE GODS!
AND, USING THE POWER OF THE ENCHANTED HAMMER, THOR CONJURES UP A LONG FORGOTTEN EVENT...
WHEN SOMETHING PUZZLES YOU, ALWAYS SEEK THE SIMPLEST, MOST OBVIOUS EXPLANATION ...NO MATTER HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT MAY SEEM!
FOR, REMEMBER... NOTHING IS TRULY IMPOSSIBLE.
THE SIMPLEST, MOST OBVIOUS EXPLANATION! IF PEOPLE ARE NOT ACTING LIKE THEMSELVES, THEN THEY MUST NOT BE THEMSELVES! THEY MUST BE IMPOSTERS!!
BUT WHO ARE THE IMPOSTORS??? WHY ARE THEY DOING IT?? AND HOW??
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! I MUST MAKE A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE CITY!
LATER, AS TWILIGHT FALLS...
THE TREES BELOW HAVE BEEN FELLED, AS THOUGH BY A HUGE SCYTHE... OR A LARGE AIRCRAFT... PERHAPS--- A SPACESHIP!!
I WAS RIGHT! THERE IT IS ... HALF HIDDEN FROM VIEW!
5

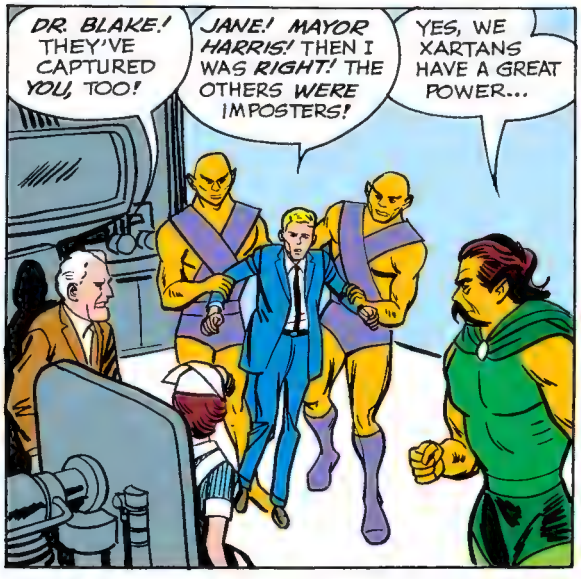
IT'S MADE OF A METAL NOT FOUND ON EARTH! IT MIGHT EVEN BE FROM ANOTHER GALAXY!
BUT I SEE NO DOOR TO THE SHIP! IT MUST BE HIDDEN!

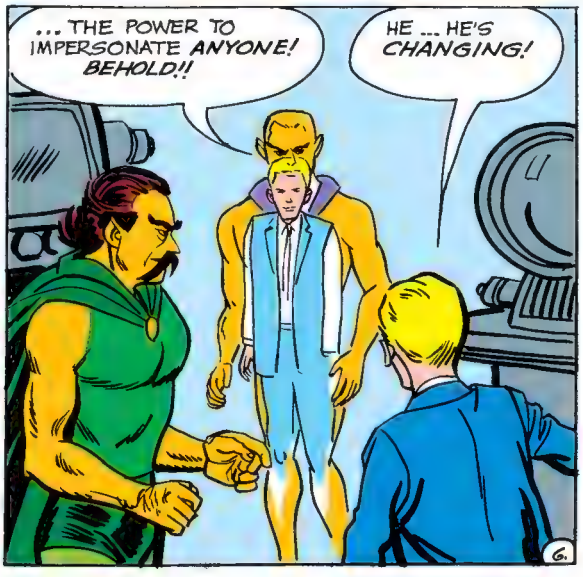

I'LL JUST LAY DOWN MY HAMMER FOR A FEW SECONDS, WHILE I FEEL ALONG THE HULL TO LOCATE THE DOOR!

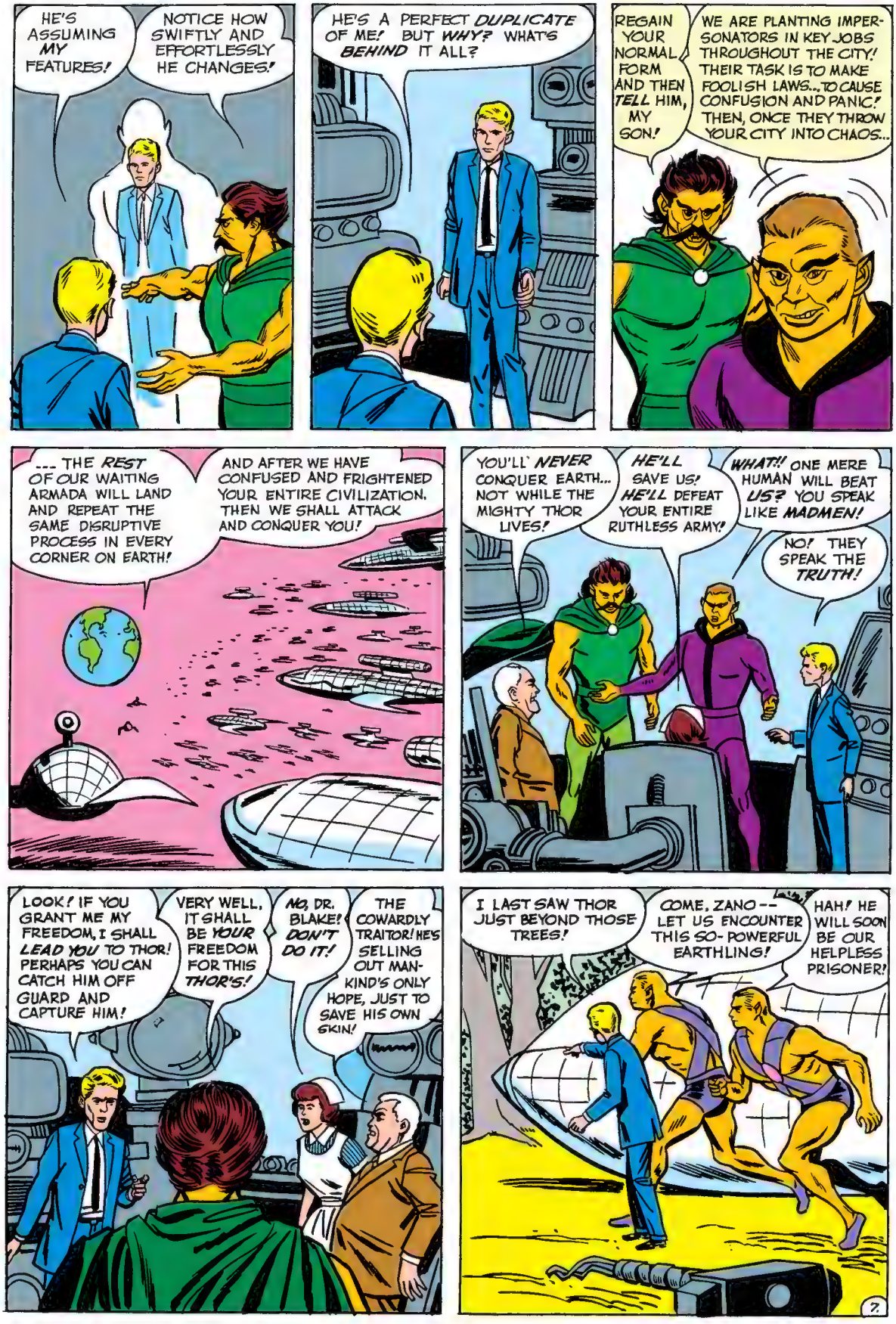

THEN, SUDDENLY...
THERE'S SOME KIND OF MAGNETIC FORCE HOLDING ME FAST TO THE HULL! I CANNOT PULL AWAY!
BUT I MUST GET FREE WITHIN A MINUTE! I MUST... OR I'LL LOSE THE POWER OF THOR*!!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: IF THE ENCHANTED MALLET IS OUT OF THOR'S HAND FOR SIXTY SECONDS, HE AUTOMATICALLY CHANGES BACK TO DON BLAKE!


BUT, THE STRANGE MAGNETIC FORCE IS TOO POWERFUL FOR EVEN THE MIGHTY THOR... AND, AS SOON AS THE FATEFUL MINUTE HAS PASSED...
I'M REVERTING BACK TO MY NORMAL FORM!


SO! THE ION-MAGNET HAS CAPTURED ANOTHER HUMAN!
TURN OFF THE CURRENT! I WILL BRING THIS PUNY EARTHLING TO UGARTH!

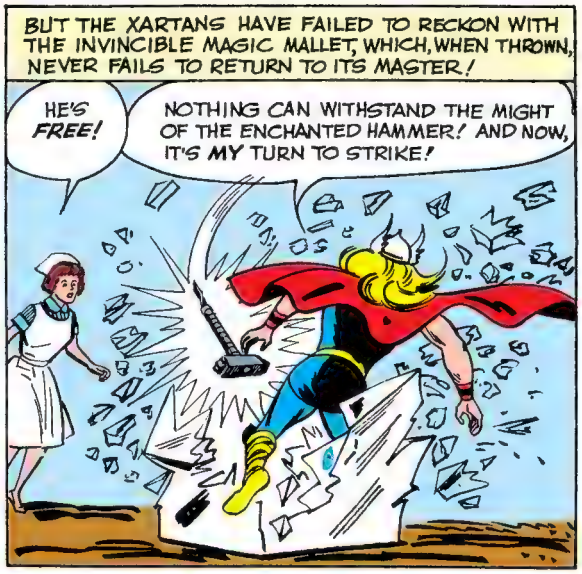

DR. BLAKE! THEY'VE CAPTURED YOU, TOO!
JANE! MAYOR HARRIS! THEN I WAS RIGHT! THE OTHERS WERE IMPOSTERS!
YES, WE XARTANS HAVE A GREAT POWER...


... THE POWER TO IMPERSONATE ANYONE! BEHOLD!!
HE ... HE'S CHANGING!
G.

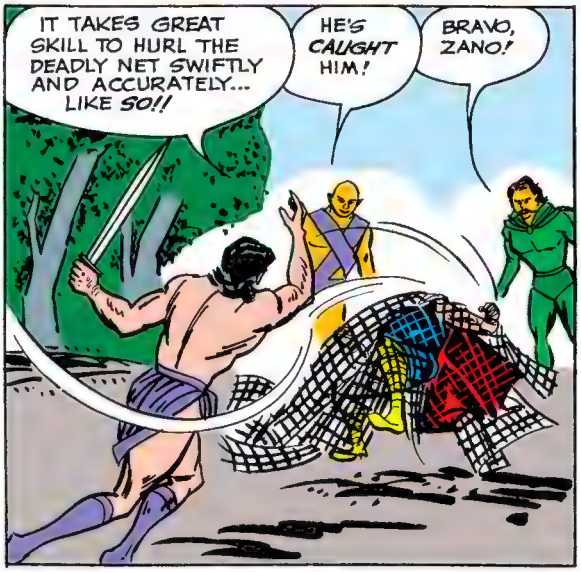

HE'S ASSUMING MY FEATURES!
NOTICE HOW SWIFTLY AND EFFORTLESSLY HE CHANGES!
HE'S A PERFECT DUPLICATE OF ME! BUT WHY? WHAT'S BEHIND IT ALL?
REGAIN YOUR NORMAL FORM AND THEN TELL HIM, MY SON!
WE ARE PLANTING IMPERSONATORS IN KEY JOBS THROUGHOUT THE CITY! THEIR TASK IS TO MAKE FOOLISH LAWS...TO CAUSE CONFUSION AND PANIC! THEN, ONCE THEY THROW YOUR CITY INTO CHAOS...
--- THE REST OF OUR WAITING ARMADA WILL LAND AND REPEAT THE SAME DISRUPTIVE PROCESS IN EVERY CORNER ON EARTH!
AND AFTER WE HAVE CONFUSED AND FRIGHTENED YOUR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION, THEN WE SHALL ATTACK AND CONQUER YOU!
YOU'LL NEVER CONQUER EARTH... NOT WHILE THE MIGHTY THOR LIVES!
HE'LL SAVE US! HE'LL DEFEAT YOUR ENTIRE RUTHLESS ARMY!
WHAT?! ONE MERE HUMAN WILL BEAT US? YOU SPEAK LIKE MADMEN!
NO! THEY SPEAK THE TRUTH!
LOOK! IF YOU GRANT ME MY FREEDOM, I SHALL LEAD YOU TO THOR! PERHAPS YOU CAN CATCH HIM OFF GUARD AND CAPTURE HIM!
VERY WELL, IT SHALL BE YOUR FREEDOM FOR THIS THOR'S!
NO, DR. BLAKE! DON'T DO IT!
THE COWARDLY TRAITOR! HE'S SELLING OUT MANKIND'S ONLY HOPE, JUST TO SAVE HIS OWN SKIN!
I LAST SAW THOR JUST BEYOND THOSE TREES!
COME, ZANO -- LET US ENCOUNTER THIS SO-POWERFUL EARTHLING!
HAH! HE WILL SOON BE OUR HELPLESS PRISONER!
7

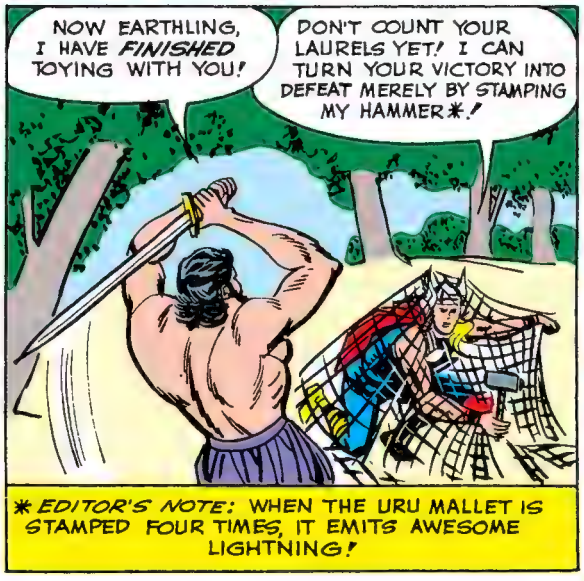
NOW IS MY CHANCE... WHILE THEY'RE ALL LOOKING THE OTHER WAY!
AND, AS DESPERATE FINGERS CLUTCH THE ENCHANTED HAMMER, THERE IS A TREMENDOUS LIGHTNING FLASH, TURNING THE LAME HUMAN INTO THE INVINCIBLE GOD OF THUNDER!
LOOK! AN EARTHLING IN STRANGE GARB!
SPEAK! WHO ARE YOU?
I AM THE ONE YOU SEEK! I AM... THOR!
SO, THAT IS THEIR CHAMPION, EH! LET ME BATTLE HIM ALONE, FATHER! I SHALL PROVE MY METTLE! I SHALL HAND HIM OVER TO YOU AS A HELPLESS CAPTIVE, WHIMPERING FOR HIS LIFE!
WELL SAID, MY SON!
BRING OUT THE HUMANS! I WANT THEM TO WITNESS THE DEFEAT OF THEIR MIGHTY THOR!
ENOUGH TALK!.. LET'S SEE IF YOU FIGHT AS WELL AS YOU SPEAK!
FOOL! YOU HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST ME! FOR WE XARTANS CAN CHANGE OURSELVES AT WILL! THUS DO I BECOME...
... A FROZEN WARRIOR, ABLE TO ENCASE YOU IN A TRAP OF ICE!!
BUT, AS THE ICE POURS OVER THOR, HE HURLS HIS MAGIC HAMMER...
8.

BEHOLD! THE HUMAN IS HELPLESSLY FROZEN IN THE ICE!
HE CANNOT MOVE HIS MUSCLES, MIGHTY AS THEY ARE!
WELL DONE, ZANO!
BAH! IT WAS NOT EVEN A CONTEST!


BUT THE XARTANS HAVE FAILED TO RECKON WITH THE INVINCIBLE MAGIC MALLET, WHICH, WHEN THROWN, NEVER FAILS TO RETURN TO ITS MASTER!
HE'S FREE!
NOTHING CAN WITHSTAND THE MIGHT OF THE ENCHANTED HAMMER! AND NOW, IT'S MY TURN TO STRIKE!

HOWEVER, BEFORE THOR CAN ACT, HIS FOE UNDERGOES ANOTHER FANTASTIC TRANSFORMATION, THIS TIME BECOMING A GIANT GLADIATOR!
I'VE HEARD THAT YOUR ANCESTORS USED THESE WEAPONS IN ANCIENT TIMES! WE WILL SEE HOW YOU YOURSELF FARE AGAINST THE SWORD AND STEEL NET!

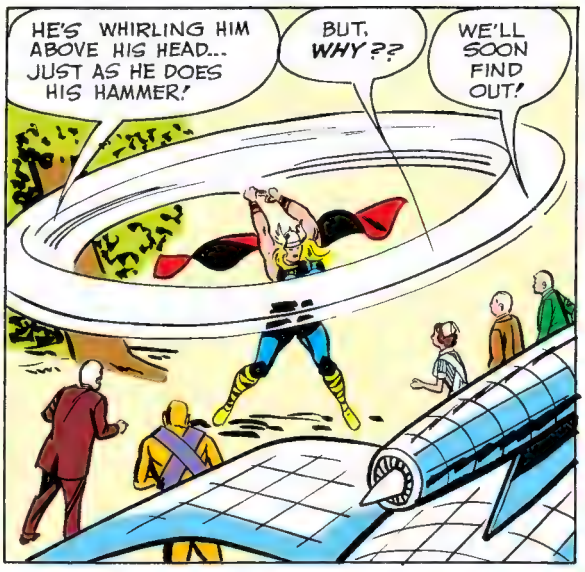

IT TAKES GREAT SKILL TO HURL THE DEADLY NET SWIFTLY AND ACCURATELY... LIKE SO!!
HE'S CAUGHT HIM!
BRAVO, ZANO!

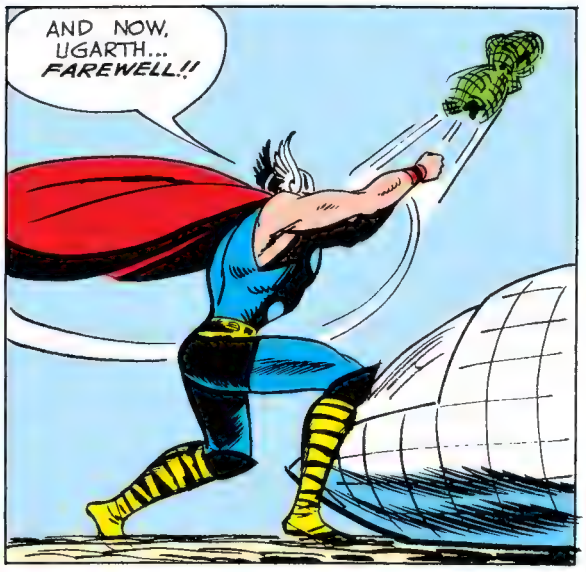

NOW EARTHLING, I HAVE FINISHED TOYING WITH YOU!
DON'T COUNT YOUR LAURELS YET! I CAN TURN YOUR VICTORY INTO DEFEAT MERELY BY STAMPING MY HAMMER*!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: WHEN THE URU MALLET IS STAMPED FOUR TIMES, IT EMITS AWESOME LIGHTNING!

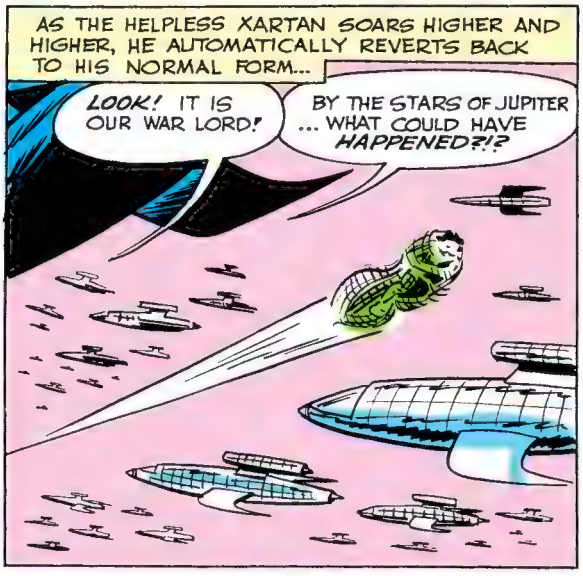
HERE, ZANO... HAVE A THUNDERBOLT! COMPLIMENTS OF YOUR "DOOMED CAPTIVE"!
YAAIIII....

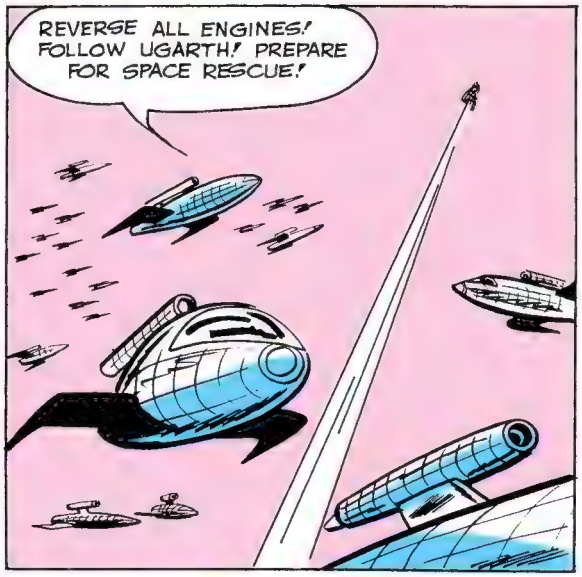
AND, AS THE XARTAN SINKS TO HIS KNEES, THE HUMANS CHEER WILDLY...
HE BEAT HIM! HE DID IT WITH HIS LIGHTNING!
I KNEW MY THOR WOULD WIN! NOBODY CAN DEFEAT HIM!
LOOK AT HIM BREAK THE STEEL NET... LIKE IT'S ONLY CARDBOARD!
I... I HAVE SHAMED YOU, FATHER!
REST EASY! I SHALL AVENGE YOUR DEFEAT! WE XARTANS WILL YET BE THE MASTERS OF EARTH! I VOW IT!
ALL RIGHT, CHAMPION... YOU WERE ABLE TO BEAT A CALLOW YOUTH! BUT NOW YOU FACE A BATTLE-HARDENED WARRIOR, THE VICTOR OF A THOUSAND GALACTIC CAMPAIGNS!
AND YOU, VILLAIN, FACE THE SON OF ODIN... WHO FEARS NO CREATURE IN ALL THE UNIVERSE!
SO BE IT!!
LOOK! HE'S STARTING TO VANISH!
HE MUST BE AFRAID OF THOR! HE'S NOT GOING TO FIGHT HIM!
IT CAN-NOT BE!
YOUR FATHER NEVER FLED FROM BATTLE IN HIS LIFE! JUST WATCH...
YOU CANNOT SEE ME, EARTHLING... BUT I AM HERE! AN INVISIBLE FOE WITH IRON FISTS!
HERE... FEEL THEM!!
UHHHH....
10

IT'S DIFFICULT TO FIGHT AN ENEMY THAT YOU CANNOT SEE, ISN'T IT?! YOU CAN NEVER TELL WHEN OR WHERE HE WILL STRIKE NEXT! YOU'RE AT HIS MERCY!
OHH, I CAN'T LOOK! OHHHH!
THOR DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE! EVEN HIS STRENGTH CAN HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!
AS THE INVISIBLE UGARTH STRIKES THOR AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE THUNDER GOD SEEMS DESTINED TO BE DEFEATED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS FANTASTIC CAREER.
MUSTN'T GIVE UP!! THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO WIN! WAIT... I HAVE IT! I KNOW HOW TO SEE THE INVISIBLE!
STAMPING HIS HAMMER TWICE, THE LORD OF THUNDER CREATES A STORM!
RAIN CAN'T PASS THROUGH A SOLID FIGURE, WHETHER IT'S VISIBLE OR INVISIBLE! AND WHERE THERE IS NO RAIN...
...THERE I SHALL FIND MY FOE!
UHHH...
NOW UGARTH... YOU SHALL KNOW THE WRATH OF THOR!
STOP! RELEASE ME!!
NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW! NOTHING!!

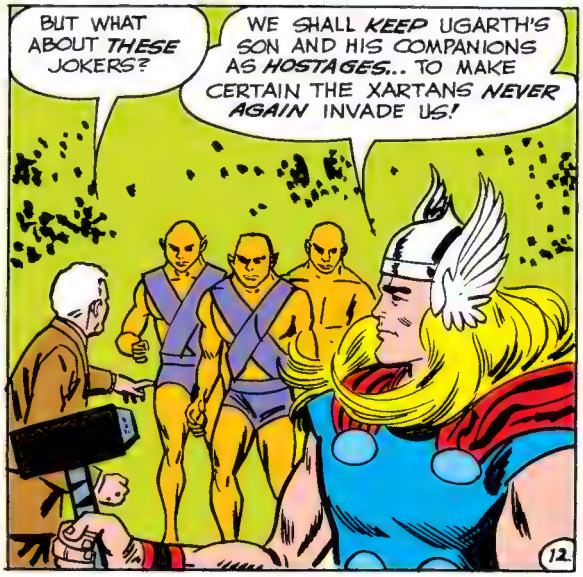

HE'S WHIRLING HIM ABOVE HIS HEAD... JUST AS HE DOES HIS HAMMER!
BUT, WHY??
WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!


AND NOW, UGARTH... FAREWELL!!

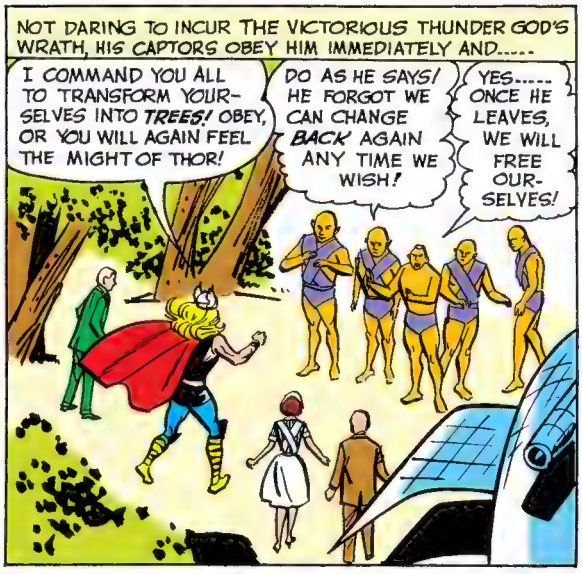

AS THE HELPLESS XARTAN SOARS HIGHER AND HIGHER, HE AUTOMATICALLY REVERTS BACK TO HIS NORMAL FORM...
LOOK! IT IS OUR WAR LORD!
BY THE STARS OF JUPITER ... WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?!?


REVERSE ALL ENGINES! FOLLOW UGARTH! PREPARE FOR SPACE RESCUE!

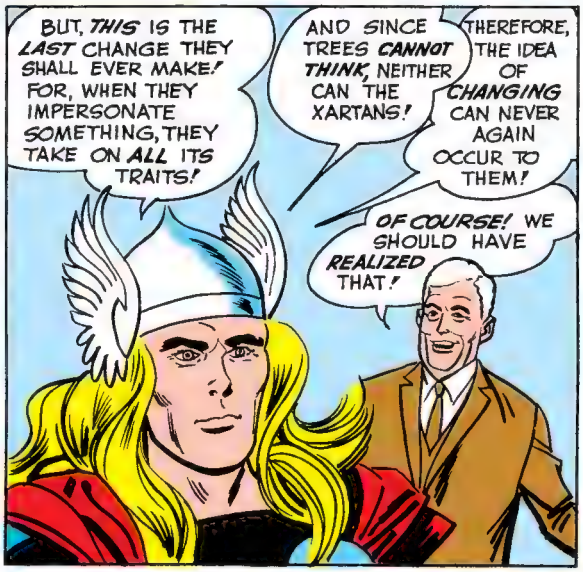
BY THE TIME THEY CATCH UP TO HIM, THEY'LL BE OUTSIDE OUR SOLAR SYSTEM!
OH, YOU WERE SO WONDERFUL!!
THANK HEAVENS YOU WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT THEIR LEADER!


BUT WHAT ABOUT THESE JOKERS?
WE SHALL KEEP UGARTH'S SON AND HIS COMPANIONS AS HOSTAGES... TO MAKE CERTAIN THE XARTANS NEVER AGAIN INVADE US!

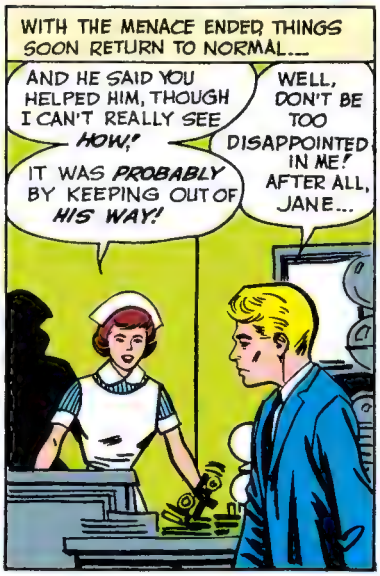
BUT THE ALIENS CAN CHANGE THEMSELVES INTO *ANYTHING!* THEY'RE TOO DANGEROUS TO KEEP AROUND!
DO NOT FEAR! THEY WILL BE RENDERED HARMLESS!
YOU, ZANO, RECALL YOUR AGENTS FROM THE CITY!


NOT DARING TO INCUR THE VICTORIOUS THUNDER GOD'S WRATH, HIS CAPTORS OBEY HIM IMMEDIATELY AND.....
I COMMAND YOU ALL TO TRANSFORM YOURSELVES INTO *TREES!* OBEY, OR YOU WILL AGAIN FEEL THE MIGHT OF THOR!
DO AS HE SAYS! HE FORGOT WE CAN CHANGE *BACK* AGAIN ANY TIME WE WISH!
YES..... ONCE HE LEAVES, WE WILL FREE OURSELVES!

THEY'RE *DOING* IT!
AS TREES THEY'RE HARMLESS! BUT FOR HOW LONG WILL THEY *REMAIN* TREES? THE XARTANS CAN ASSUME ANOTHER FORM, WHENEVER THEY WISH!
YES, I KNOW!


BUT, *THIS* IS THE *LAST* CHANGE THEY SHALL EVER MAKE! FOR, WHEN THEY IMPERSONATE SOMETHING, THEY TAKE ON *ALL* ITS TRAITS!
AND SINCE TREES *CANNOT THINK,* NEITHER CAN THE XARTANS!
THEREFORE, THE IDEA OF *CHANGING* CAN NEVER AGAIN OCCUR TO THEM!
OF COURSE! WE SHOULD HAVE *REALIZED* THAT!

AND SO, WE'RE SAFE... THANKS TO *YOU!*
ONE THING MORE... DO NOT BE HARSH WITH DR. BLAKE! HE ONLY *PRETENDED* TO BETRAY ME! BY SO DOING, HE ACTUALLY *HELPED* ME!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT I'LL TAKE THE WORD OF *THOR* ANY TIME!

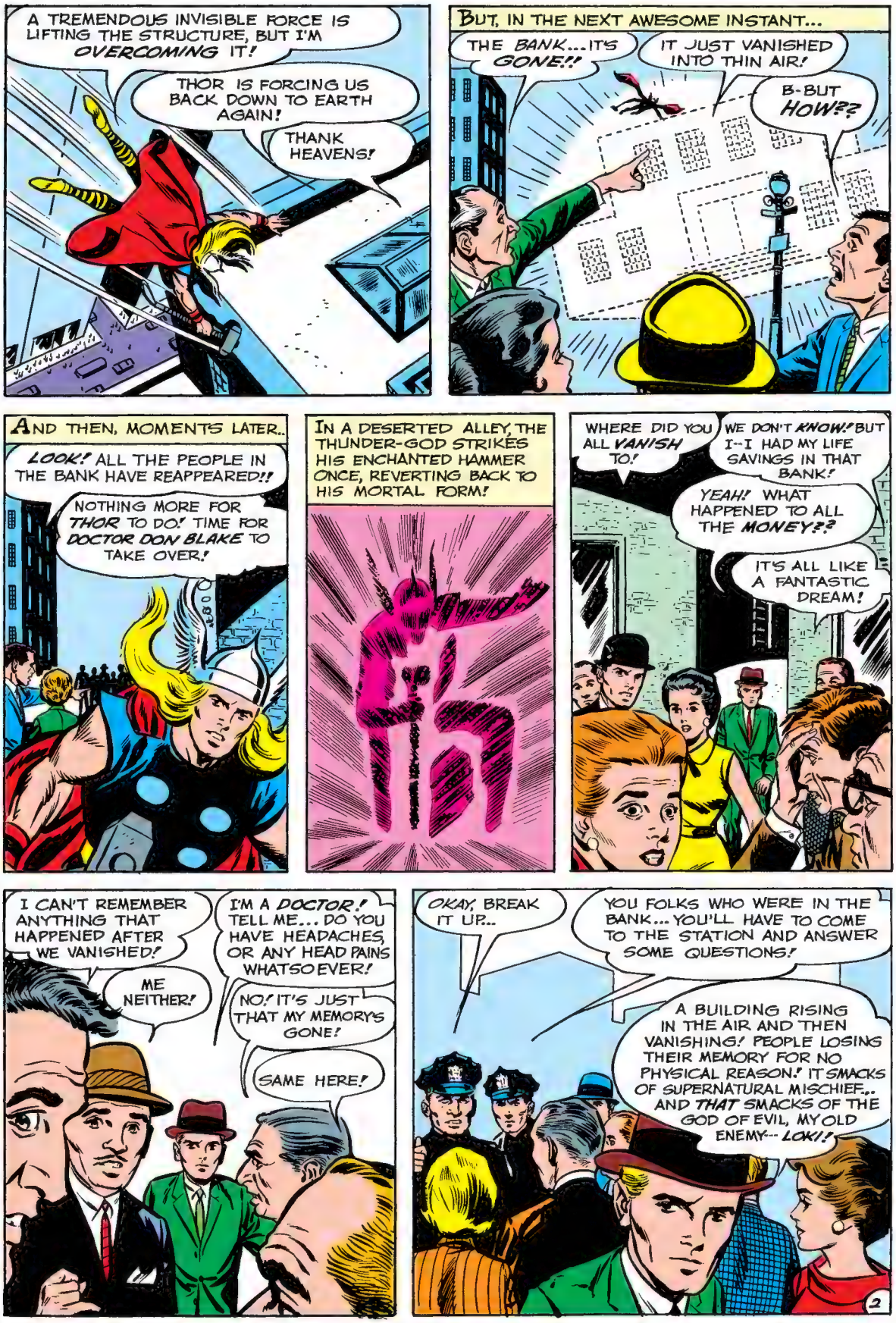

WITH THE MENACE ENDED THINGS SOON RETURN TO NORMAL...
AND HE SAID YOU HELPED HIM, THOUGH I CAN'T REALLY SEE *HOW!*
WELL, DON'T BE TOO DISAPPOINTED IN ME! AFTER ALL, JANE...
IT WAS *PROBABLY* BY KEEPING OUT OF *HIS WAY!*

...WE CAN'T *ALL* BE AS BRAVE AS THOR!

-THE END-

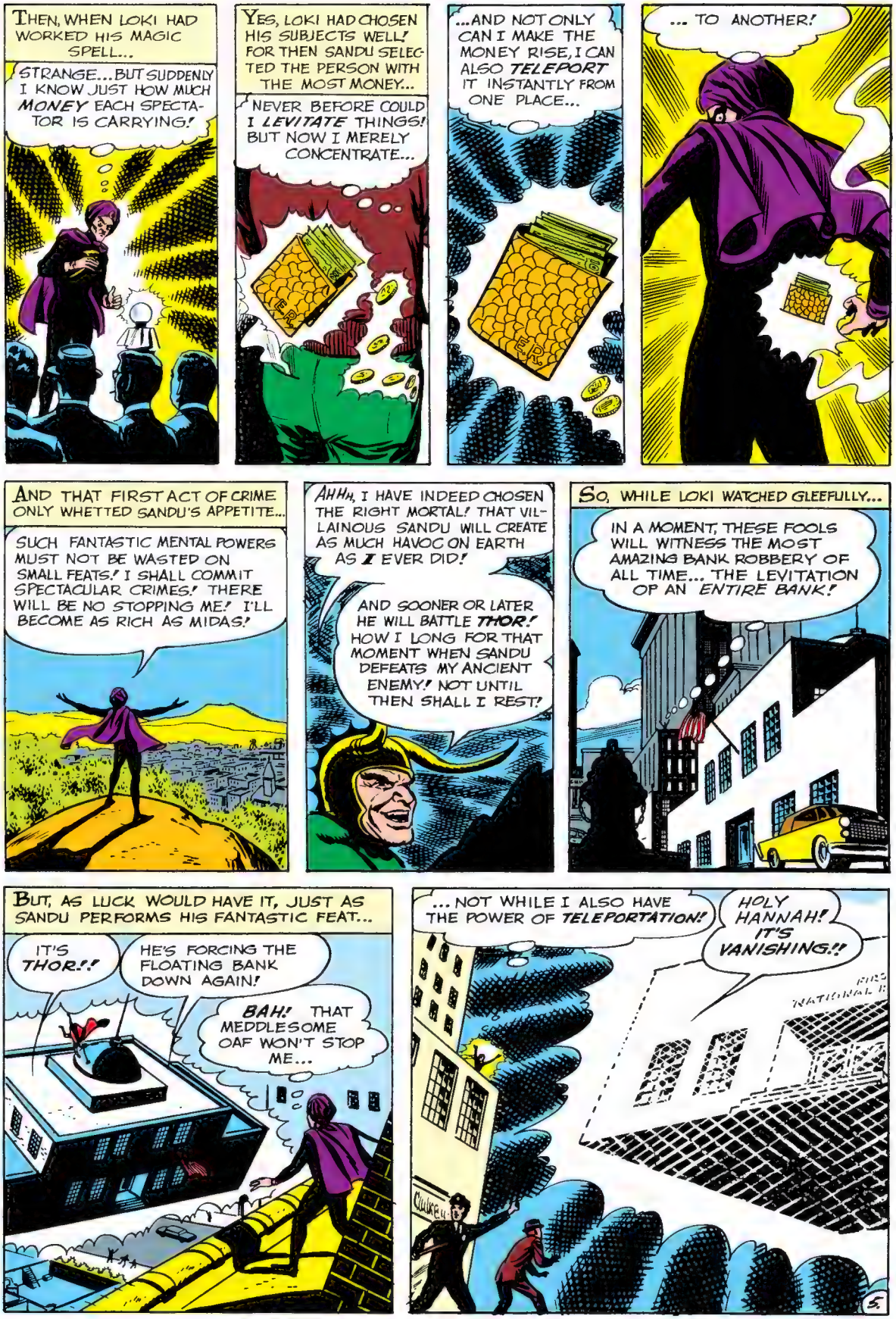
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
91 APR.
THOUGH I AM FAR FROM EARTH I, LOKI, SHALL STILL DEFEAT THOR WITH THE HELP OF... SANDU!
"SANDU, MASTER OF THE SUPERNATURAL" WAS ONLY A MORTAL... BUT, HIS POWERS WERE THE POWERS OF LOKI HIMSELF!
EVEN MY GREAT STRENGTH WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO SAVE ME IF SANDU COVERS ME WITH THAT CONCRETE BUILDING!

IN HIS HEAVENLY CITADEL, ODIN, RULER OF THE NORSE GODS, THINKS OF HIS ELDEST SON, THE MIGHTY THOR...
THIS IS HIS BELT OF STRENGTH! IF HE WERE TO GIRD IT ABOUT HIM, HIS AWESOME STRENGTH WOULD BE INCREASED!
BUT THUS FAR HE HAS NEEDED IT NOT! HIS OWN STRENGTH HAS BEEN MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH WRONG DOERS! SO THE ENCHANTED BELT REMAINS IN MY TRUST UNTIL THE FATEFUL DAY WHEN THE LORD OF THUNDER HAS NEED OF IT!
BUT, UNKNOWN TO ODIN, THAT DAY IS CLOSE AT HAND! EVEN NOW AS THOR RETURNS FROM HIS LAST ADVENTURE, HOPING FOR A PERIOD OF PEACE AND QUIET...
WHAT'S HAPPENING BELOW? SOME KIND OF ADVERTISING STUNT?
THE MIGHTY THOR! BATTLES... "SANDU, MASTER OF THE SUPERNATURAL!"
IT-IT JUST STARTED TO RISE IN THE AIR BY ITSELF!
IT'S NOT STOPPING! IT'S FLOATING HIGHER!
ALL THOSE PEOPLE INSIDE THE BANK! WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM?
LOOK! HERE COMES THOR!! HE'LL SAVE THE BANK!
PLOT —— STAN LEE
SCRIPT —— LARRY LIEBER
ART —— JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING —— TERRY SZENICS


A TREMENDOUS INVISIBLE FORCE IS LIFTING THE STRUCTURE, BUT I'M OVERCOMING IT!
THOR IS FORCING US BACK DOWN TO EARTH AGAIN!
THANK HEAVENS!
BUT, IN THE NEXT AWESOME INSTANT...
THE BANK...IT'S GONE!!
IT JUST VANISHED INTO THIN AIR!
B-BUT HOW??
AND THEN, MOMENTS LATER..
LOOK! ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE BANK HAVE REAPPEARED!!
NOTHING MORE FOR THOR TO DO! TIME FOR DOCTOR DON BLAKE TO TAKE OVER!
IN A DESERTED ALLEY, THE THUNDER-GOD STRIKES HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER ONCE, REVERTING BACK TO HIS MORTAL FORM!
WHERE DID YOU ALL VANISH TO!
WE DON'T KNOW! BUT I--I HAD MY LIFE SAVINGS IN THAT BANK!
YEAH! WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE MONEY??
IT'S ALL LIKE A FANTASTIC DREAM!
I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED AFTER WE VANISHED!
ME NEITHER!
I'M A DOCTOR! TELL ME... DO YOU HAVE HEADACHES, OR ANY HEAD PAINS WHATSOEVER!
NO! IT'S JUST THAT MY MEMORY'S GONE!
SAME HERE!
OKAY, BREAK IT UP...
YOU FOLKS WHO WERE IN THE BANK... YOU'LL HAVE TO COME TO THE STATION AND ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS!
A BUILDING RISING IN THE AIR AND THEN VANISHING! PEOPLE LOSING THEIR MEMORY FOR NO PHYSICAL REASON! IT SMACKS OF SUPERNATURAL MISCHIEF... AND THAT SMACKS OF THE GOD OF EVIL, MY OLD ENEMY--- LOKI!
2

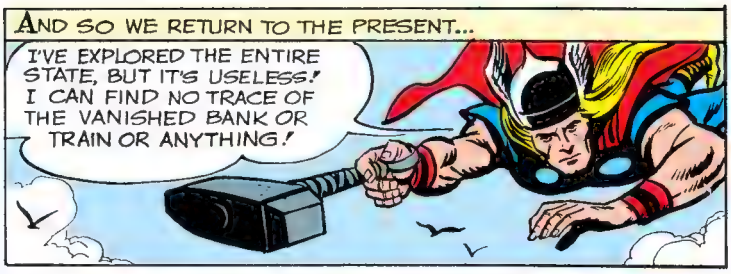
ONCE AGAIN, DON BLAKE BECOMES THOR... AND, FLYING TO A LONELY MOUNTAIN, HE INVOKES THE NAME OF HIS LEGENDARY NORSE FATHER...
ODIN, HEAR ME! I, THY ELDEST SON, SEEK THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE SINISTER LOKI!
BY MY WILL, THE EVIL LOKI IS CONFINED HERE IN ASGARD*, WHERE HE SHALL REMAIN UNTIL HE HAS ATONED FOR HIS MISDEEDS!
THEN HE HAS NOT COME TO EARTH AGAIN! THEN HE IS NOT THE ONE I SEEK!
I THANK THEE, FATHER! FAREWELL!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: ASGARD IS THE HEAVENLY CITADEL OF THE NORSE GODS!
BUT IF IS NOT LOKI, THEN WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHO ELSE HAS THE POWER TO MAKE A BUILDING RISE IN THE AIR AND THEN VANISH!??
EVEN WHILE THOR PONDERS OVER THE MYSTERY, ANOTHER ASTONISHING EVENT IS TAKING PLACE AT A DISTANT RACE TRACK...
ALL OUR MONEY... IT'S FLOATING IN THE AIR!
STOP IT! STOP IT!!
HOW??
IT'S THE ENTIRE DAY'S TAKE... FLYING AWAY!
BUT THERE'S NO WIND! WHAT'S MAKING ALL THE BILLS MOVE? WHAT'S KEEPING THEM IN THE AIR??
I DUNNO! I ONLY WISH I COULD FLOAT TOO! I'D GO AFTER ALL THAT BEAUTIFUL LOOT!
EDSON
BUT, IN THE CITADEL OF THE GODS, THE MOST DANGEROUS IMMORTAL OF ALL WATCHES THE EARTHLY SCENE WITH UNDISGUISED GLEE!
I HAVEN'T ENJOYED MYSELF THIS MUCH IN CENTURIES!
POOR THOR! ODIN TOLD HIM THE TRUTH! I AM IN ASGARD! BUT THERE ARE OTHER THINGS WHICH ODIN DOES NOT KNOW!
WHAT "OTHER THINGS"? FOR THE ANSWER, WE MUST GO BACK A FEW DAYS TO THE TIME DR. BLAKE AND HIS LOVELY NURSE RETURNED TO THEIR OFFICE FROM A HOUSE CALL...
LOOK, JANE! A CARNIVAL!
HOW EXCITING! THEY HAVE A MIND-READING ACT!
YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IS 422-18-396!
HEY!! HE'S RIGHT!
CARNI
SANDU THE GREAT
3.

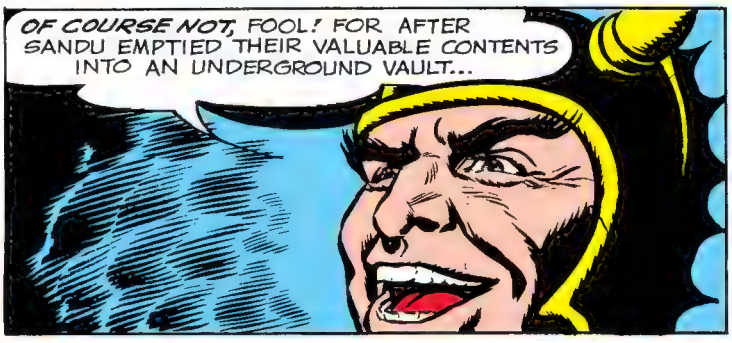
GEE! I WONDER WHAT THE TRICK OF MIND-READING IS?
IT MAY NOT BE A TRICK! SANDU MAY REALLY HAVE EXTRA-SENSORY MENTAL POWERS! SOME PEOPLE DO! BUT ONLY TO A SLIGHT DEGREE!
YOU ARE CORRECT, SIR! I HAVE JUST DETECTED YOUR THOUGHTS! THUS I KNOW YOU ARE IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN WHOSE INITIALS ARE J.F!
WHY--- THOSE ARE MY INITIALS!
HE--EH,--- HE MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE...I MEAN, THEY OFTEN TRY TO EMBARRASS PEOPLE! IT'S PART OF THEIR ACT!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT DR. BLAKE WOULD NEVER BE INTERESTED IN ME ROMANTICALLY! HE'S TOO STUFFY TO FALL FOR ANY GIRL!
SANDU REALLY SCORED A BULL'S EYE, BUT I COULDN'T ADMIT IT TO JANE!
IF SHE KNEW I LOVED HER, I'D BE ABLE TO KEEP NO SECRETS FROM HER! SHE'D SOON LEARN I WAS THOR... AND ODIN HAS FORBIDDEN ME TO REVEAL THAT TO ANY OTHER MORTAL!
MEANWHILE, IN A REALM BEYOND MORTAL MEN, LOKI IS PLOTTING REVENGE AGAINST THE ONE WHO HAD TWICE DEFEATED HIM ON EARTH...
ODIN FORBIDS ME TO GO TO EARTH! BUT, IF I WERE TO INCREASE THE EXTRASENSORY POWERS OF THAT MIND READER, I COULD MAKE HIM ALMOST AS POWERFUL AS I AM!
AND IF I'M ANY JUDGE OF MORTALS... SANDU, GIVEN SUPER MENTAL POWERS WOULD USE THEM FOR EVIL!
HE MIGHT EVEN DEFEAT THOR, THUS GIVING ME THE VENGEANCE I SEEK!
SO BE IT! I SHALL INCREASE THE HUMAN'S MEAGER EXTRA-SENSORY ABILITY! I SHALL MAKE IT A THOUSAND TIMES STRONGER!!!
4.

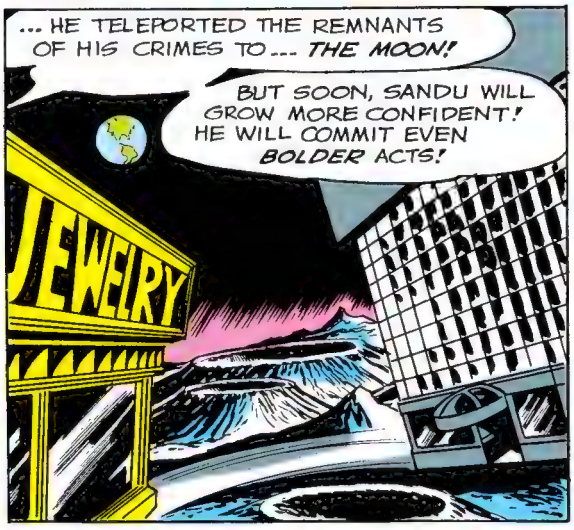

THEN, WHEN LOKI HAD WORKED HIS MAGIC SPELL...
STRANGE...BUT SUDDENLY I KNOW JUST HOW MUCH MONEY EACH SPECTATOR IS CARRYING!
YES, LOKI HAD CHOSEN HIS SUBJECTS WELL! FOR THEN SANDU SELECTED THE PERSON WITH THE MOST MONEY...
NEVER BEFORE COULD I LEVITATE THINGS! BUT NOW I MERELY CONCENTRATE...
...AND NOT ONLY CAN I MAKE THE MONEY RISE, I CAN ALSO TELEPORT IT INSTANTLY FROM ONE PLACE...
... TO ANOTHER!
AND THAT FIRST ACT OF CRIME ONLY WHETTED SANDU'S APPETITE...
SUCH FANTASTIC MENTAL POWERS MUST NOT BE WASTED ON SMALL FEATS! I SHALL COMMIT SPECTACULAR CRIMES! THERE WILL BE NO STOPPING ME! I'LL BECOME AS RICH AS MIDAS!
AHHH, I HAVE INDEED CHOSEN THE RIGHT MORTAL! THAT VILLAINOUS SANDU WILL CREATE AS MUCH HAVOC ON EARTH AS I EVER DID!
AND SOONER OR LATER HE WILL BATTLE THOR! HOW I LONG FOR THAT MOMENT WHEN SANDU DEFEATS MY ANCIENT ENEMY! NOT UNTIL THEN SHALL I REST!
SO, WHILE LOKI WATCHED GLEEFULLY...
IN A MOMENT, THESE FOOLS WILL WITNESS THE MOST AMAZING BANK ROBBERY OF ALL TIME... THE LEVITATION OF AN ENTIRE BANK!
BUT, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, JUST AS SANDU PERFORMS HIS FANTASTIC FEAT...
IT'S THOR!!
HE'S FORCING THE FLOATING BANK DOWN AGAIN!
BAH! THAT MEDDLESOME OAF WON'T STOP ME...
...NOT WHILE I ALSO HAVE THE POWER OF TELEPORTATION!
HOLY HANNAH! IT'S VANISHING!!
FIRST NATIONAL B
CLOSED
5

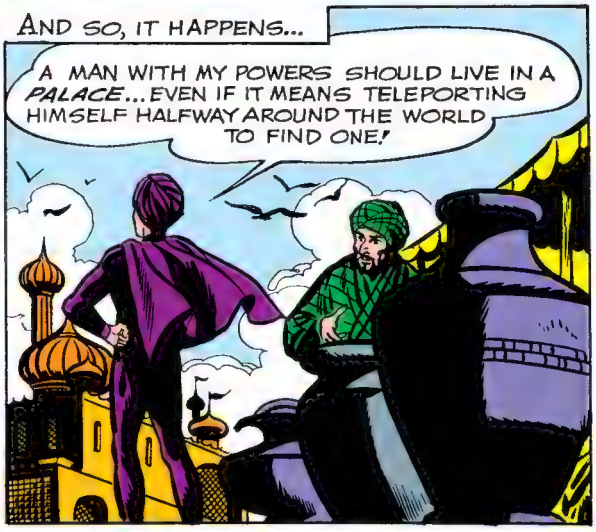
BY SHEER MENTAL CONCENTRATION, SANDU TELEPORTED THE BANK AND HIMSELF TO A SECLUDED AREA OUTSIDE THE CITY...
HOW... HOW DID WE GET HERE??
FIRST WE WERE FLOATING IN AIR... AND NOW THIS!!
IT IS MERELY ONE OF MANY MENTAL FEATS THAT I INTEND TO PERFORM!
YOU CAUSED THIS??
OKAY, MAC, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT, BUT YOU'D BETTER UNDO IT!
AND NO FUNNY STUFF, SEE!!
HAH!! YOU THINK PUNY WEAPONS FRIGHTEN ME!... GO AHEAD... SHOOT!
ANGRY AND DESPERATE, THE GUARDS OPENED FIRE! BUT, TO THEIR ASTONISHMENT...
MY BULLET... IT JUST DROPPED TO THE GROUND!
MINE TOO!
WITH MY MENTAL POWER OF LEVITATION, I CAN CONTROL THE MOVEMENT OF ANYTHING.. ...EVEN BULLETS!
AND I'M NOT FINISHED YET...
THE REVOLVER--- IT FLOATED OUT OF MY HAND!
MY GUN'S TURNED AROUND! IT'S AIMING AT ME!
I COULD EASILY "WILL" THE TRIGGERS TO MOVE AGAIN--- BUT I WON'T! I'VE NO NEED TO HARM SUCH HELPLESS FOES!
INSTEAD, I'LL SIMPLY TELEPORT YOU ALL BACK TO THE CITY... AND AT THE SAME TIME REMOVE TELEPATHICALLY THE MEMORY OF THIS INCIDENT FROM YOUR MINDS!
THUS, YOU SHALL NEVER BE ABLE TO REVEAL THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE BANK!
SECONDS LATER...
THEY'RE BACK!
WHERE DID YOU VANISH TO?
I... I CAN'T REMEMBER!!
WHAT ABOUT THE BANK... ALL THE MONEY--- WHERE IS IT?
STRANGE! I-I CAN'T RECALL A THING!
6.

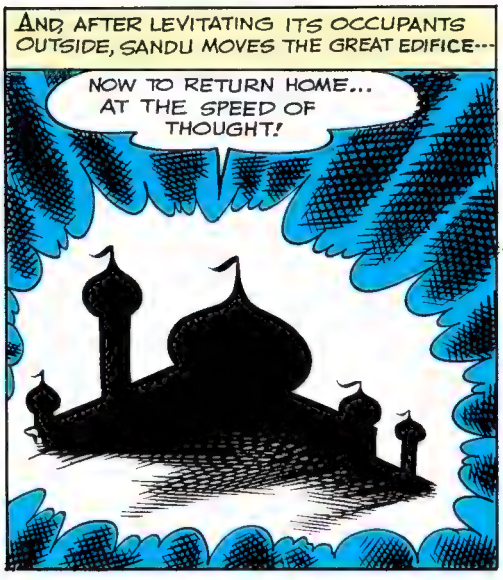
AND THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF SANDU'S SUPERNATURAL CRIME WAVE...
WE SAW THE TRAIN CARRYING GOLD BULLION, RISE OFF THE TRACKS AND FLY AWAY!
EVERY PAINTING IN THE MUSEUM... VANISHED!!
THERE'S NOT A THING TO GO ON! NO LEADS!! NO CLUES!

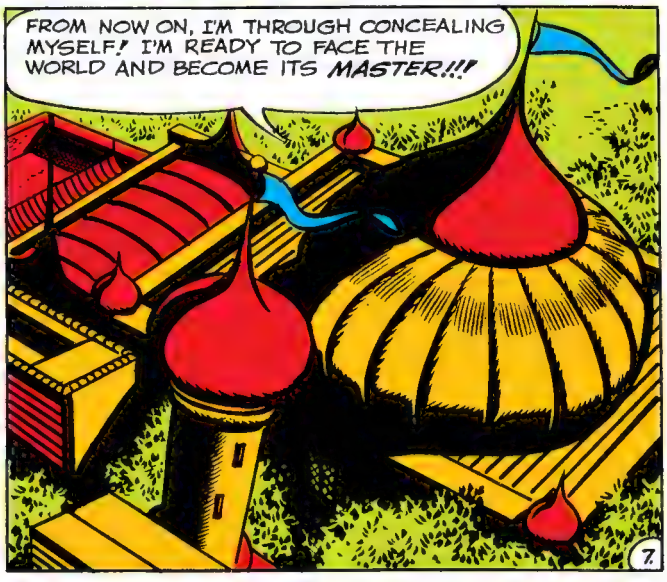

AND SO WE RETURN TO THE PRESENT...
I'VE EXPLORED THE ENTIRE STATE, BUT IT'S USELESS! I CAN FIND NO TRACE OF THE VANISHED BANK OR TRAIN OR ANYTHING!


OF COURSE NOT, FOOL! FOR AFTER SANDU EMPTIED THEIR VALUABLE CONTENTS INTO AN UNDERGROUND VAULT...


... HE TELEPORTED THE REMNANTS OF HIS CRIMES TO... THE MOON!
BUT SOON, SANDU WILL GROW MORE CONFIDENT! HE WILL COMMIT EVEN BOLDER ACTS!
JEWELRY


AND SO, IT HAPPENS...
A MAN WITH MY POWERS SHOULD LIVE IN A PALACE... EVEN IF IT MEANS TELEPORTING HIMSELF HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD TO FIND ONE!


AND, AFTER LEVITATING ITS OCCUPANTS OUTSIDE, SANDU MOVES THE GREAT EDIFICE---
NOW TO RETURN HOME... AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT!


FROM NOW ON, I'M THROUGH CONCEALING MYSELF! I'M READY TO FACE THE WORLD AND BECOME ITS MASTER!!!

REVEALING HIS DEEDS TO THE AUTHORITIES, SANDU INFORMS THEM THAT HIS NEXT TARGET WILL BE IN NEW YORK CITY...

THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE ME UNTIL THEY SAW ME LEVITATE MYSELF! NOW THEY'VE SENT *JET FIGHTERS* TO STOP ME!

IF HE DOESN'T SURRENDER AND RETURN TO THE GROUND, OUR ORDERS ARE TO OPEN FIRE!

BUT THE MENTAL MARVEL SCOFFS AT THE AIRMEN'S COMMANDS! AND WHEN THEY LET LOOSE WITH MACHINE GUNS AND ROCKETS...

I MERELY CONCENTRATE, TO TURN THEIR OWN WEAPONS AGAINST THEM!

HE'S MAKING THE SHELLS COME RIGHT BACK AT US!

WE CAN'T DODGE THEM! *BAIL OUT!!*

USAF

GOOD THING OUR EJECTOR SEATS WORKED IN THE NICK OF TIME!

MAN, *NOTHING'S* GONNA STOP THAT GUY... NOT WITH *HIS* POWER!

AND IF THEY DARE ATTACK ME WITH NUCLEAR BOMBS, I'LL SIMPLY TELEPORT THEM TO SOME OTHER CONTINENT!

REACHING NEW YORK, SANDU HEADS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS BUILDING! AND AMONG THOSE WATCHING THE SPECTACLE...

NOW THAT HE HAS COME INTO THE OPEN, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HE ENCOUNTERS *THOR!* THEN I SHALL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF SEEING HIM *DEFEAT* THE THUNDER-GOD, WITH THE POWERS *I* HAVE GIVEN HIM!

LOOK! HE'S MAKING THE U.N. BUILDING RISE!!

IT HAPPENED SO FAST! ALL THE DELEGATES ARE STILL INSIDE! THEY DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO GET OUT!

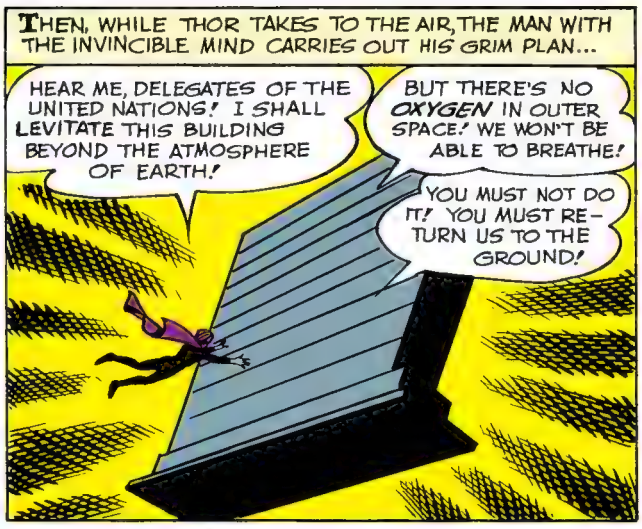
MEANWHILE IN ANOTHER CITY...

WHERE ARE YOU RUSHING OFF TO DOCTOR?

TO THE--EH-- *HOSPITAL!* THERE'S AN--EH-- EMERGENCY CASE! THEY WANT ME FOR CONSULTATION!

BUT, MOMENTS LATER, IN A DESERTED ALLEYWAY...

THERE'S AN EMERGENCY, ALRIGHT.. BUT IT'S NOT AT THE HOSPITAL, AND IT CAN'T BE HANDLED BY A MEEK MORTAL! IT NEEDS THE POWER OF... THE MIGHTY *THOR!!*


THEN, WHILE THOR TAKES TO THE AIR, THE MAN WITH THE INVINCIBLE MIND CARRIES OUT HIS GRIM PLAN...
HEAR ME, DELEGATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS! I SHALL LEVITATE THIS BUILDING BEYOND THE ATMOSPHERE OF EARTH!
BUT THERE'S NO OXYGEN IN OUTER SPACE! WE WON'T BE ABLE TO BREATHE!
YOU MUST NOT DO IT! YOU MUST RE-TURN US TO THE GROUND!

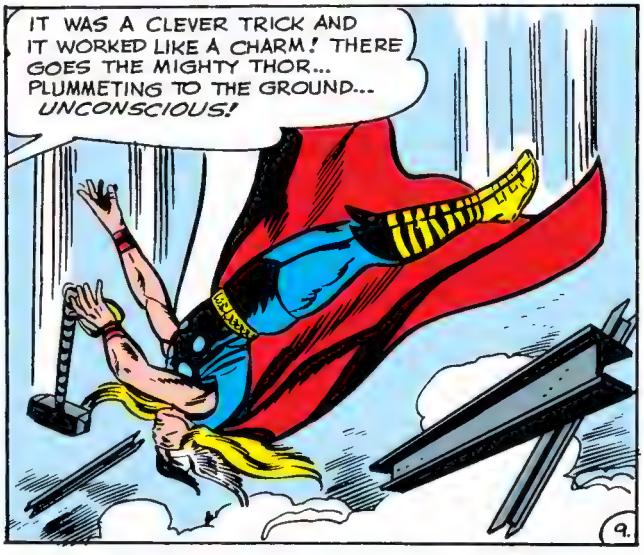
I'LL SPARE YOUR LIVES ON ONLY ONE CONDITION... THAT YOU MAKE ME ABSOLUTE RULER OF EARTH!!
BUT WE'RE ONLY REPRESENTATIVES! WE HAVEN'T THE POWER TO DO THAT!
THE MAN IS MAD! HUMOR HIM!
LOOK! HERE COMES THOR!!

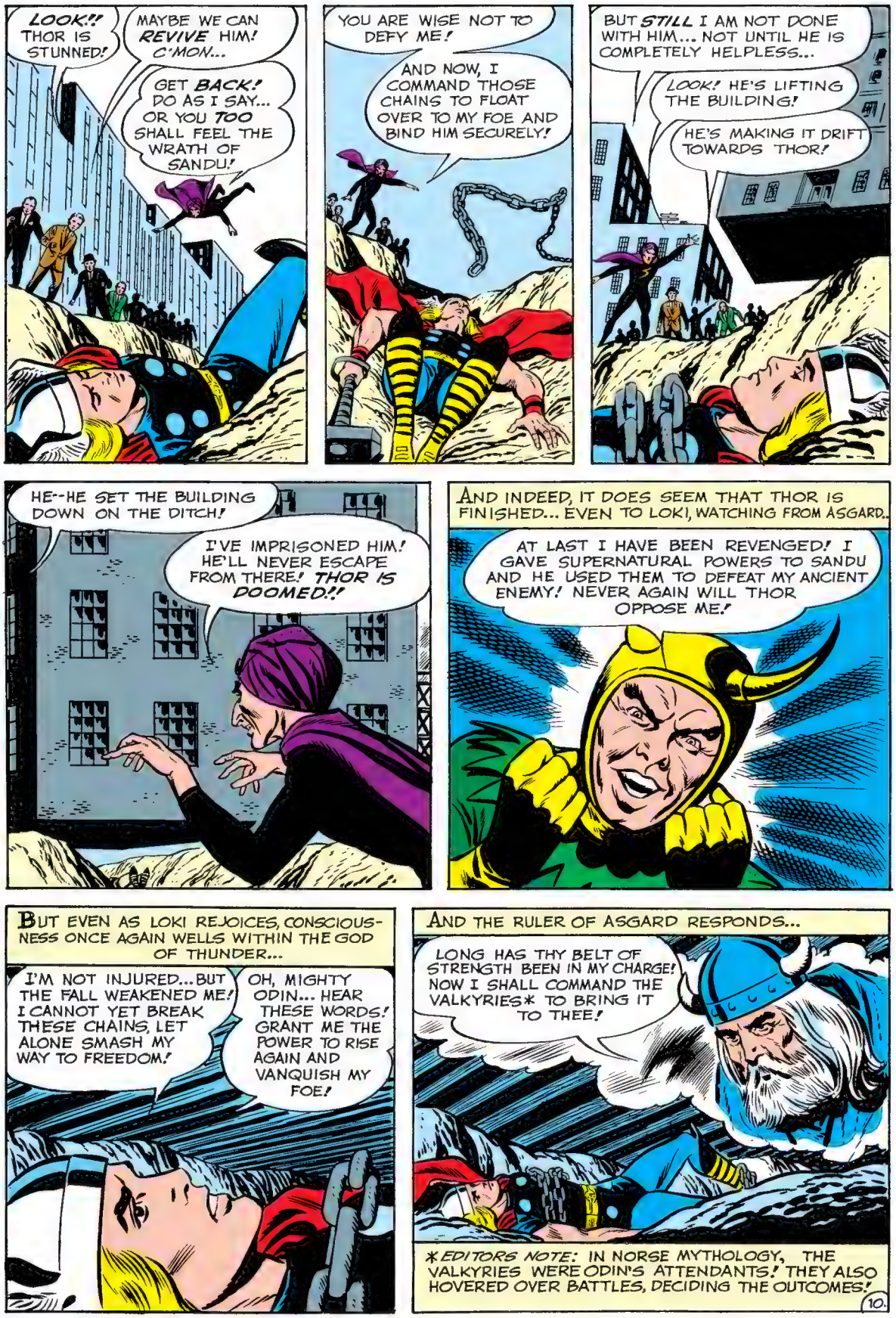
AT LAST... THE MOMENT I HAVE AWAITED!
SANDU, THOSE PEOPLE ARE NOT WARRIORS, BUT I AM! RETURN THEM SAFELY TO THE GROUND AND PREPARE TO BATTLE ONE WHO IS YOUR EQUAL!
NO ONE THAT BREATHES IS MY EQUAL! WE SHALL SOON SEE IF YOUR DEEDS CAN MATCH YOUR WORDS!

TELEPORTING THE BUILDING BACK TO EARTH, SANDU HIM-SELF DESCENDS, WITH THE THUNDER-GOD IN PURSUIT...
COME, THOR...CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!
I CAN, AND I WILL!

THAT DERRICK AND THOSE GIRDERS... ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CONCENTRATE AND I CAN TELEPORT THEM INTO THE AIR RIGHT BEHIND ME...

"...LIKE SO!!"
THOSE GIRDERS! I'M GOING TO... UGH!!
CLANG!


IT WAS A CLEVER TRICK AND IT WORKED LIKE A CHARM! THERE GOES THE MIGHTY THOR... PLUMMETING TO THE GROUND... UNCONSCIOUS!


LOOK!! THOR IS STUNNED!
MAYBE WE CAN REVIVE HIM! C'MON...
GET BACK! DO AS I SAY... OR YOU TOO SHALL FEEL THE WRATH OF SANDU!
YOU ARE WISE NOT TO DEFY ME!
AND NOW, I COMMAND THOSE CHAINS TO FLOAT OVER TO MY FOE AND BIND HIM SECURELY!
BUT STILL I AM NOT DONE WITH HIM... NOT UNTIL HE IS COMPLETELY HELPLESS...
LOOK! HE'S LIFTING THE BUILDING!
HE'S MAKING IT DRIFT TOWARDS THOR!
HE--HE SET THE BUILDING DOWN ON THE DITCH!
I'VE IMPRISONED HIM! HE'LL NEVER ESCAPE FROM THERE! THOR IS DOOMED!!
AND INDEED, IT DOES SEEM THAT THOR IS FINISHED... EVEN TO LOKI, WATCHING FROM ASGARD..
AT LAST I HAVE BEEN REVENGED! I GAVE SUPERNATURAL POWERS TO SANDU AND HE USED THEM TO DEFEAT MY ANCIENT ENEMY! NEVER AGAIN WILL THOR OPPOSE ME!
BUT EVEN AS LOKI REJOICES, CONSCIOUSNESS ONCE AGAIN WELLS WITHIN THE GOD OF THUNDER...
I'M NOT INJURED... BUT THE FALL WEAKENED ME! I CANNOT YET BREAK THESE CHAINS, LET ALONE SMASH MY WAY TO FREEDOM!
OH, MIGHTY ODIN... HEAR THESE WORDS! GRANT ME THE POWER TO RISE AGAIN AND VANQUISH MY FOE!
AND THE RULER OF ASGARD RESPONDS...
LONG HAS THY BELT OF STRENGTH BEEN IN MY CHARGE! NOW I SHALL COMMAND THE VALKYRIES* TO BRING IT TO THEE!
*EDITORS NOTE: IN NORSE MYTHOLOGY, THE VALKYRIES WERE ODIN'S ATTENDANTS! THEY ALSO HOVERED OVER BATTLES, DECIDING THE OUTCOMES!
10.

AT ODIN'S BIDDING, THE VALKYRIES DESCEND FROM THE HEAVENLY CITADEL, CARRYING THE ENCHANTED BELT OF STRENGTH...

BEING ETHEREAL, THEY ARE ABLE TO GLIDE RIGHT THRU THE STEEL BUILDING AND REACH THE STRICKEN THUNDER GOD, GIRDING THE BELT AROUND HIS WAIST!

*EDITOR'S NOTE: IN ANCIENT MYTHOLOGY, MIGHTY THOR ACTUALLY POSSESSED SUCH AN AWESOME BELT!

THEN, EVEN AS THE VALKYRIES DEPART, THE BODY OF THOR SURGES WITH NEW VITALITY...

ONCE AGAIN I HAVE POWER NEVER KNOWN BY ANOTHER BEING! ONCE AGAIN I AM THE MIGHTIEST OF ALL IMMORTALS!

ONCE AGAIN, I AM THOR...

SPINNING HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER, THE FANTASTIC THUNDER-GOD SWIFTLY BORES AN ESCAPE TUNNEL...

I'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN A FEW SECONDS! THEN, LET SANDU BEWARE...

AND THE FURY OF THOR IS SO GREAT THAT, WHEN HE EMERGES INTO THE OPEN, THE VERY HEAVENS DARKEN!

BAR-ROOM!

THOSE THUNDER CLAPS! WHAT'S CAUSING THEM??

LOOK!! IT'S THOR! HE'S FREE!!

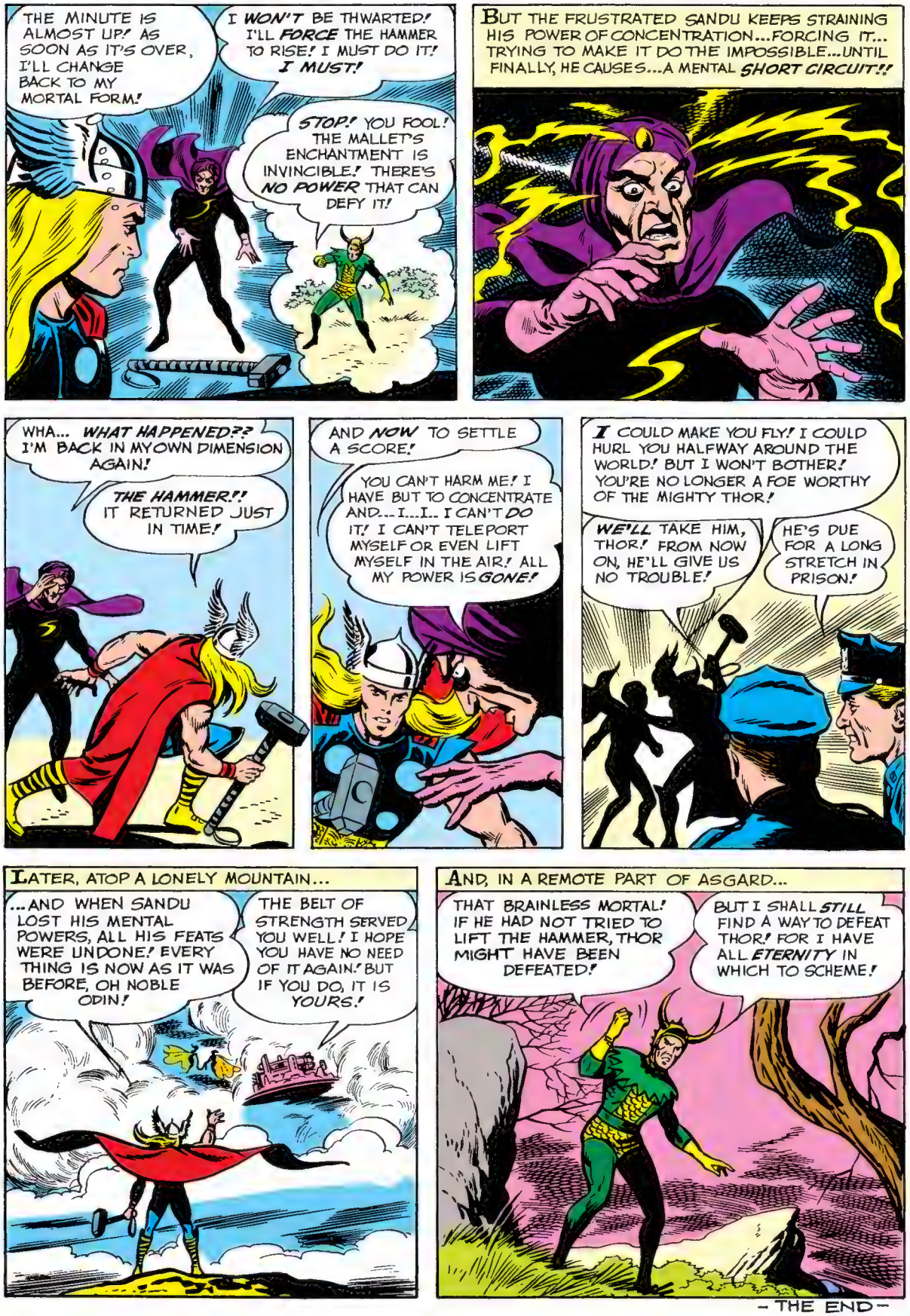
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE ESCAPED, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER! I'LL STILL DEFEAT HIM!

NOW FOR THE MOMENT OF RECKONING!

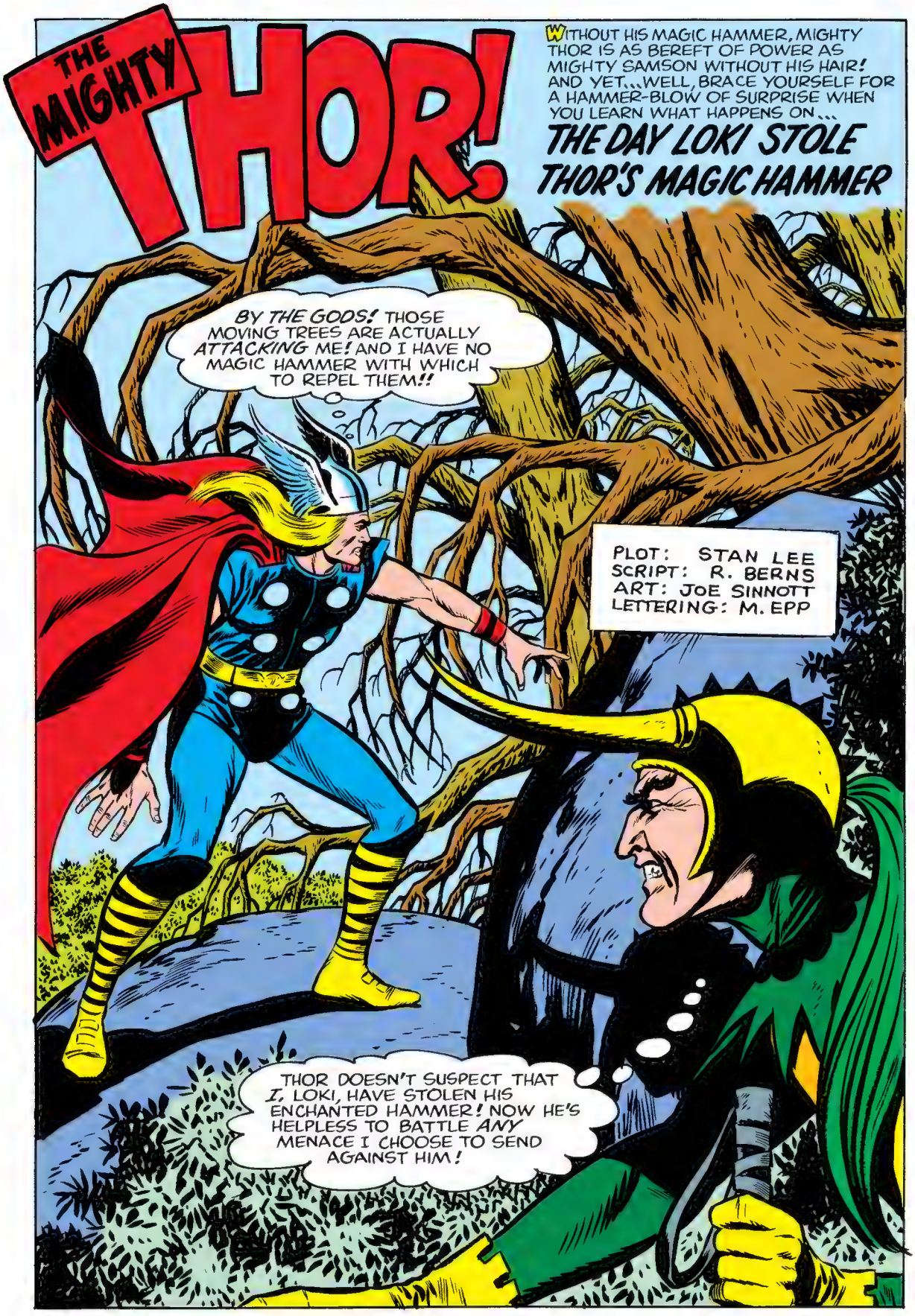
FROM ASGARD, LOKI THUNDERS A COMMAND--

HIS HAMMER, SANDU! YOU MUST TAKE IT FROM THOR!

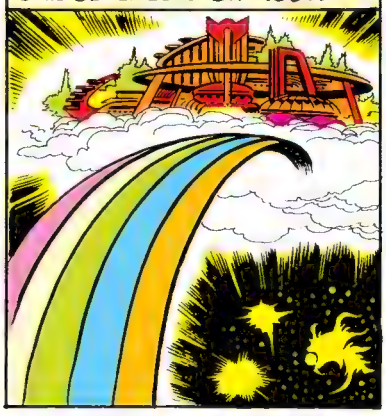
AND SANDU'S MENTAL POWERS ARE SO GREAT THAT HE SENSES LOKI'S FRANTIC ADVICE...
MUST SEPARATE HIM FROM THE HAMMER... MY ONLY CHANCE!
OTHERS MAY FEAR YOU, THOR... BUT NOT I! TO ME, YOU'RE A COWARD!! YOU FEAR ME SO MUCH THAT YOU DARE NOT HURL YOUR MALLET AT ME!
IMPUDENT CLOD! THE MIGHTY THOR FEARS NOTHING THAT LIVES!
A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE THE SPEEDING HAMMER CAN REACH HIM, SANDU TELEPORTS HIMSELF OUT OF ITS DEADLY PATH!
IT MISSED ME!
THEN, PERFORMING THE MOST SPECTACULAR FEAT OF HIS FANTASTIC CAREER, THE MENTAL MARVEL TELEPORTS HIMSELF AND THE ENTIRE SURROUNDING AREA INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION!!
I DID IT! I'VE SEPARATED THOR FROM HIS HAMMER! NOW THEY'RE IN TWO DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS!
WITHOUT THE MALLET, I'LL LOSE MY POWER! IN SIXTY SECONDS I'LL BE DON BLAKE AGAIN!
THERE'S NO WAY FOR THOR TO ENTER THE OTHER DIMENSION---TO RETRIEVE HIS MALLET! THE THUNDER-GOD IS FINISHED!
THE LEGENDARY MAGIC HAMMER! NOW IT BELONGS TO ME! NOW I, SANDU, SHALL WIELD IT!
BUT, WHEN THE EVIL HUMAN ATTEMPTS TO LIFT THE ENCHANTED MALLET...
UHHH... THE THING WON'T BUDGE... I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'LL HAVE TO USE MY MENTAL POWERS AND LIFT IT BY LEVITATION!
BUT EVEN THEN...
I... STILL CAN'T MOVE IT, NO MATTER HOW HARD I CONCENTRATE!
BUT I WON'T GIVE UP! MY MENTAL POWERS ARE SUPREME! I'LL ALLOW NOTHING TO DEFY THEM! I'LL STRAIN MYSELF TO THE UTMOST!
NO! STOP! NOBODY BUT THOR CAN LIFT THE HAMMER DON'T TRY IT!
12


THE MINUTE IS ALMOST UP! AS SOON AS IT'S OVER, I'LL CHANGE BACK TO MY MORTAL FORM!
I WON'T BE THWARTED! I'LL FORCE THE HAMMER TO RISE! I MUST DO IT! I MUST!
STOP! YOU FOOL! THE MALLET'S ENCHANTMENT IS INVINCIBLE! THERE'S NO POWER THAT CAN DEFY IT!
BUT THE FRUSTRATED SANDU KEEPS STRAINING HIS POWER OF CONCENTRATION...FORCING IT... TRYING TO MAKE IT DO THE IMPOSSIBLE...UNTIL FINALLY, HE CAUSES...A MENTAL SHORT CIRCUIT!!
WHA... WHAT HAPPENED?? I'M BACK IN MY OWN DIMENSION AGAIN!
THE HAMMER!! IT RETURNED JUST IN TIME!
AND NOW TO SETTLE A SCORE!
YOU CAN'T HARM ME! I HAVE BUT TO CONCENTRATE AND... I... I... I CAN'T DO IT! I CAN'T TELEPORT MYSELF OR EVEN LIFT MYSELF IN THE AIR! ALL MY POWER IS GONE!
I COULD MAKE YOU FLY! I COULD HURL YOU HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD! BUT I WON'T BOTHER! YOU'RE NO LONGER A FOE WORTHY OF THE MIGHTY THOR!
WE'LL TAKE HIM, THOR! FROM NOW ON, HE'LL GIVE US NO TROUBLE!
HE'S DUE FOR A LONG STRETCH IN PRISON!
LATER, ATOP A LONELY MOUNTAIN...
...AND WHEN SANDU LOST HIS MENTAL POWERS, ALL HIS FEATS WERE UNDONE! EVERY THING IS NOW AS IT WAS BEFORE, OH NOBLE ODIN!
THE BELT OF STRENGTH SERVED YOU WELL! I HOPE YOU HAVE NO NEED OF IT AGAIN! BUT IF YOU DO, IT IS YOURS!
AND, IN A REMOTE PART OF ASGARD...
THAT BRAINLESS MORTAL! IF HE HAD NOT TRIED TO LIFT THE HAMMER, THOR MIGHT HAVE BEEN DEFEATED!
BUT I SHALL STILL FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT THOR! FOR I HAVE ALL ETERNITY IN WHICH TO SCHEME!
- THE END -

JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
92 MAY
I'VE DONE IT! I'VE STOLEN THOR'S HAMMER! NOW THE THUNDER GOD IS AT MY MERCY!
THE MIGHTY THOR CANNOT REACH HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER! IS THIS TO BE LOKI'S FINAL VICTORY??
I CANNOT REACH IT! WITHIN SECONDS ALL MY SUPER POWERS WILL BE GONE ...FOREVER!


THE MIGHTY THOR!
WITHOUT HIS MAGIC HAMMER, MIGHTY THOR IS AS BEREFT OF POWER AS MIGHTY SAMSON WITHOUT HIS HAIR! AND YET...WELL, BRACE YOURSELF FOR A HAMMER-BLOW OF SURPRISE WHEN YOU LEARN WHAT HAPPENS ON...
THE DAY LOKI STOLE THOR'S MAGIC HAMMER
BY THE GODS! THOSE MOVING TREES ARE ACTUALLY ATTACKING ME! AND I HAVE NO MAGIC HAMMER WITH WHICH TO REPEL THEM!!
PLOT: STAN LEE
SCRIPT: R. BERNS
ART: JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING: M. EPP
THOR DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT I, LOKI, HAVE STOLEN HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER! NOW HE'S HELPLESS TO BATTLE ANY MENACE I CHOOSE TO SEND AGAINST HIM!

BEYOND OUR SEGMENT OF TIME AND SPACE THERE EXISTS *ASGARD*, HOME OF THE NORSE GODS, WHICH CAN ONLY BE REACHED FROM EARTH BY THE RAINBOW BRIDGE CALLED *BIFROST!*



THE POWERFUL GUARDIAN OF THE BRIDGE IS *HEIMDALL*, THE WARDER, WHO OBEYS NONE BUT *ODIN*, KING OF THE GODS.

HALT AND IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

COME, HEIMDALL! DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE NERI, HAND-MAIDEN TO FRICKA, QUEEN OF *ASGARD*?

AYE! BUT YOU COULD ALSO BE THAT ROGUE SON OF ODIN'S... *LOKI*. WHO BY MAGIC CAN EVEN TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO A LOVELY MAIDEN LIKE YOURSELF!

INDEED, LOKI ONCE TOOK THE SHAPE OF A WRIGGLING *SNAKE* TO SLIP BY ME AND VENTURE DOWN TO *EARTH* TO WORK HIS MISCHIEF AGAINST HAPLESS MORTALS!

BUT I *COULDN'T* BE LOKI! I MYSELF *SAW* LOKI ON YONDER HILL!

WHERE? I SEE HIM *NOT!*

THEN, NERI LEADS HEIMDALL TO A RISE OF LAND...

THERE! FASTENED TO A ROCK WITH TEN CHAINS! THUS LOKI MUST REMAIN, ON ODINS ORDERS, TILL THE END OF TIME!

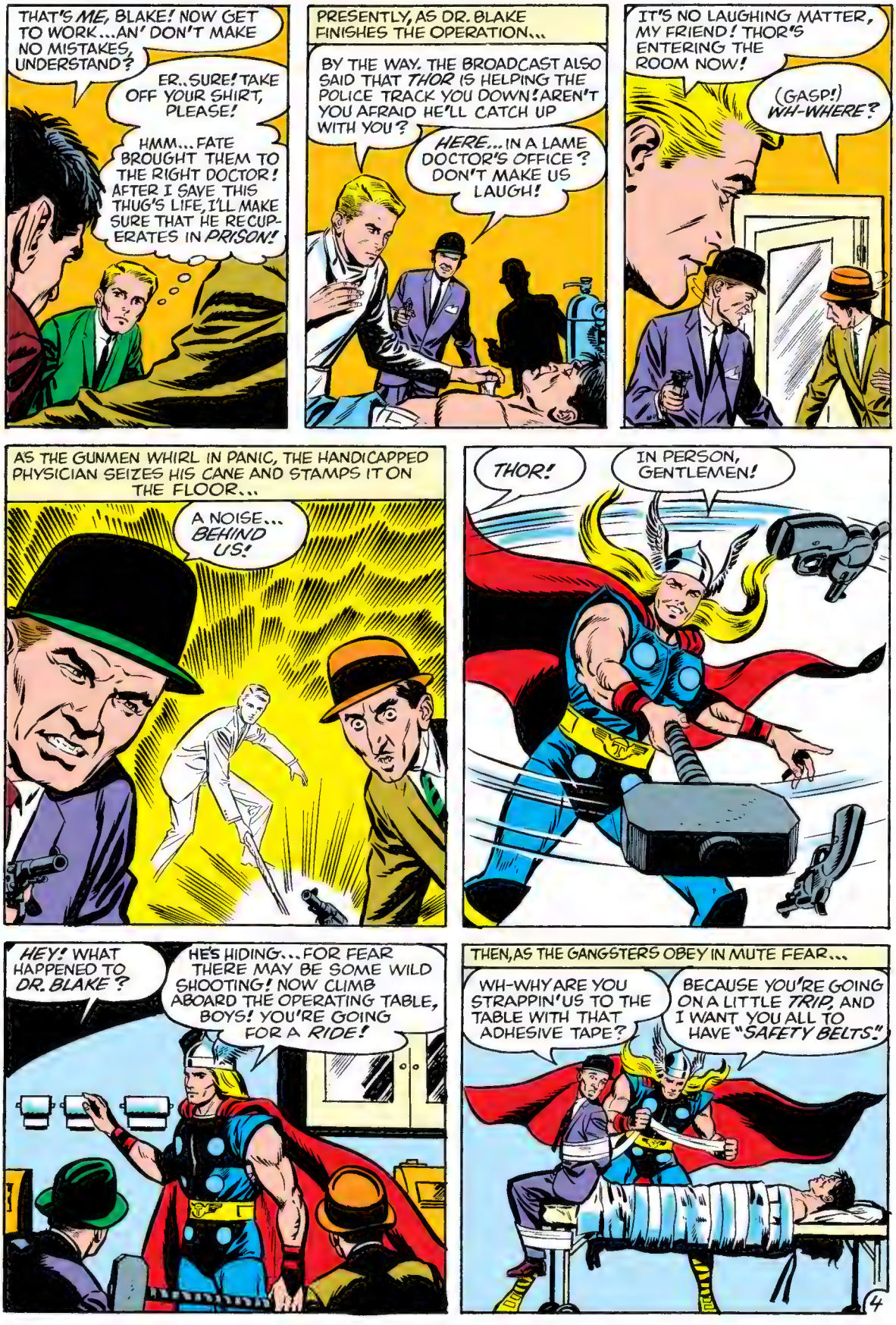
HMM.. SO I SEE, LASS! AND WELL DOES LOKI *DESERVE* THAT FATE!

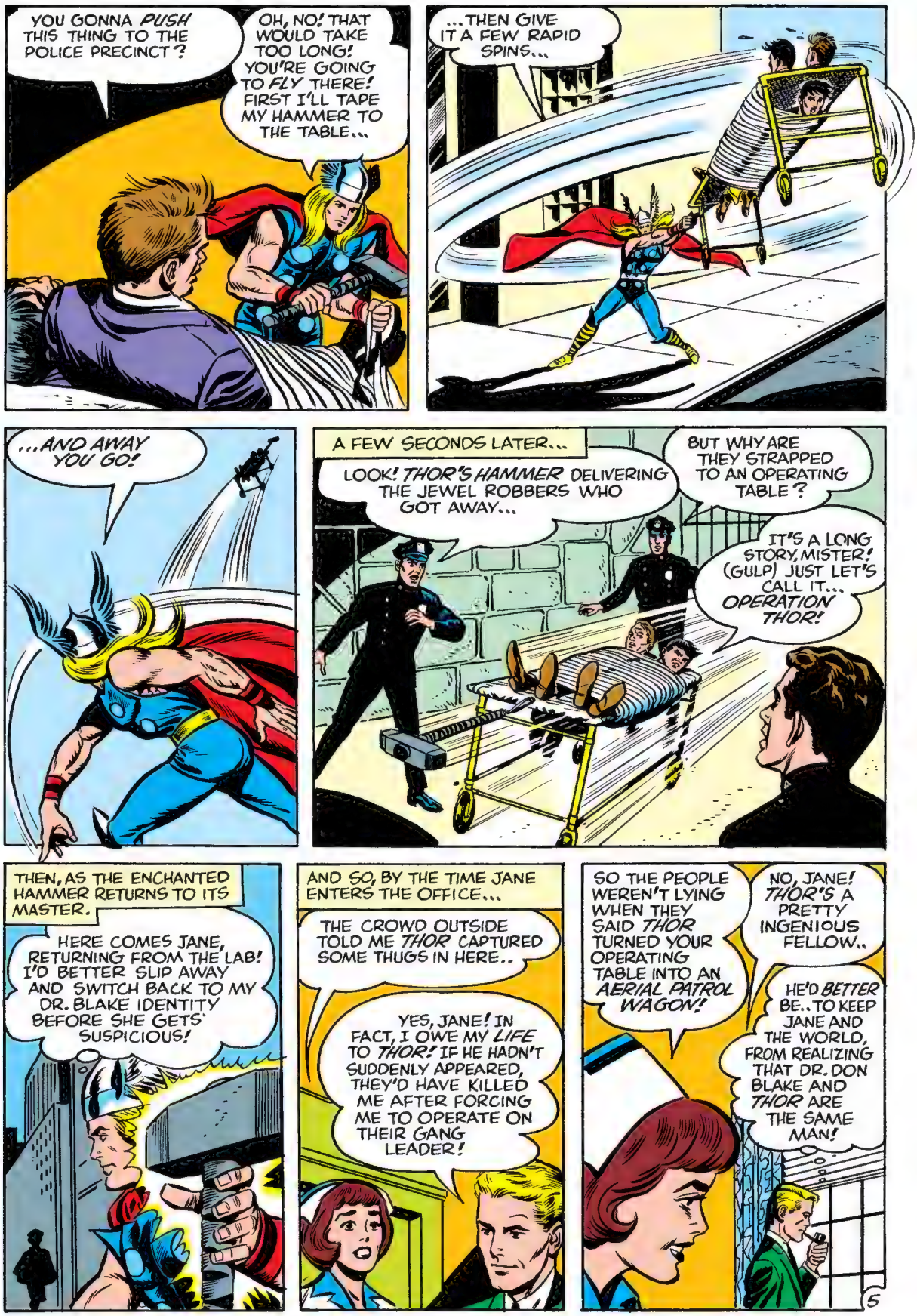
HE IS THE VERY SPIRIT OF EVIL, AND THE DEADLY ENEMY OF THOR, ODIN'S FAVORITE SON! FREE LOKI AND DISASTER WILL SURELY BEFALL BOTH EARTH AND *ASGARD!*

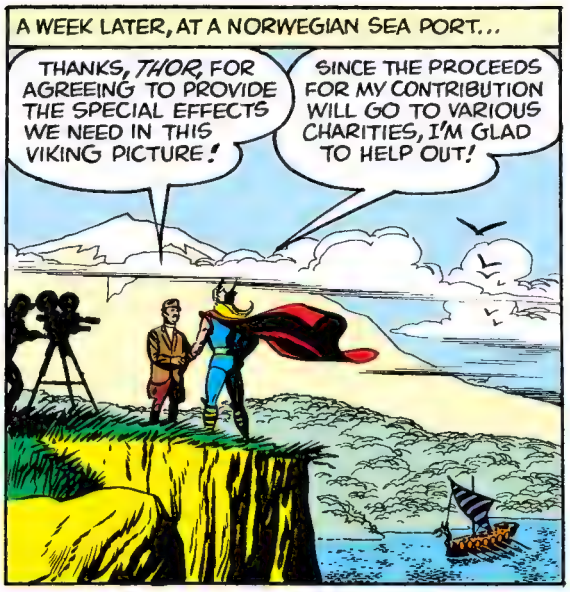
NOW THAT I KNOW LOKI HAS NOT ESCAPED HIS BONDS, YOU MAY PASS ON TO BIFROST, SWEET NERI, AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!

THANK YOU, NOBLE HEIMDALL!

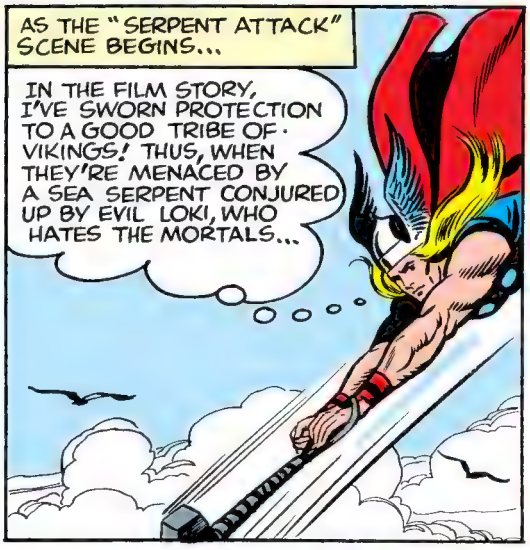
BUT NO WORD OF HEIMDALL'S CONVERSATION HAS BEEN MISSED BY THE FETTERED GOD OF MISCHIEF..
"SWEET NERI"! "NOBLE HEIMDALL"! BAH! HOW I HATE THOSE WELL-MEANING, VIRTUOUS INHABITANTS OF ASGARD! THEY THINK I'M IMPRISONED FOREVER ON THIS ROCK, DO THEY!?
BUT THEY UNDERESTIMATE MY POWERS! SOONER OR LATER I SHALL SHATTER THESE HUMILIATING CHAINS WHICH MY FATHER, ODIN, PERSONALLY FORGED TO PREVENT ME FROM SEEKING VENGEANCE ON THOR!
THEN THEY'LL LEARN I'M NOT CALLED GOD OF EVIL FOR NOTHING! THAT SUPREME DO-GOODER, THOR, WILL YET PERISH BY MY HAND! I SO VOW!
MEANWHILE, AN INFINITY AWAY FROM ASGARD, AT THE OFFICE OF DR. DON BLAKE...
NOW THAT YOUR OFFICE HOURS ARE OVER, DR. BLAKE, I'LL DELIVER THESE BLOOD-SAMPLES TO THE LAB!
THANKS, JANE! MEANWHILE, I'LL ANALYZE THIS SET OF X-RAYS!
AS NURSE JANE FOSTER LEAVES THE OFFICE, BEADY EYES WATCH HER...
OKAY, CHIEF...BLAKE'S ALONE IN HIS OFFICE NOW!
IT'S ABOUT TIME! (GROAN!) WITH THESE TWO POLICE SLUGS IN MY STOMACH, I'LL DIE OF LEAD POISONIN' BEFORE I REACH AN OPER-ATING TABLE!
I GOT NO LUCK! WHY COULDN'T ONE OF YOU MUGGS HAVE CAUGHT THE SLUGS DURING THE GET AWAY INSTEAD OF ME?
DON'T WORRY, BOSS! BLAKE'S A TOP SURGEON! HE'LL EXTRACT THE BULLETS! AFTER ALL, WE COULDN'T RUSH YOU TO A HOSPITAL AFTER THE STICKUP...
DR. BLAKE
THEY'D ONLY SIC THE POLICE ON US! BUT BLAKE'S A WEAKLING! HE'LL DO WHAT WE TELL HIM TO...
AND HE WON'T FILE NO REPORT TO THE COPS, EITHER! BECAUSE AFTER BLAKE FIXES YOU UP, WE'LL POLISH HIM OFF!
BLAKE, WE BROUGHT YOU A PATIENT! HE CAUGHT TWO BULLETS! TAKE 'EM OUT... OR ELSE!
SO! THAT POLICE FLASH I HEARD AN HOUR AGO OVER THE RADIO! THEY SAID ONE CROOK WAS WOUNDED IN A JEWEL ROBBERY...

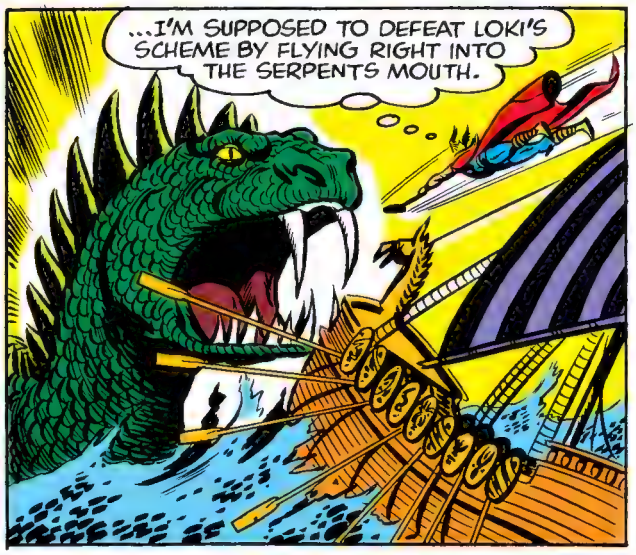

THAT'S ME, BLAKE! NOW GET TO WORK...AN' DON'T MAKE NO MISTAKES, UNDERSTAND?
ER..SURE! TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT, PLEASE!
HMM... FATE BROUGHT THEM TO THE RIGHT DOCTOR! AFTER I SAVE THIS THUG'S LIFE, I'LL MAKE SURE THAT HE RECUPERATES IN PRISON!
PRESENTLY, AS DR. BLAKE FINISHES THE OPERATION...
BY THE WAY. THE BROADCAST ALSO SAID THAT THOR IS HELPING THE POLICE TRACK YOU DOWN! AREN'T YOU AFRAID HE'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU?
HERE... IN A LAME DOCTOR'S OFFICE? DON'T MAKE US LAUGH!
IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER, MY FRIEND! THOR'S ENTERING THE ROOM NOW!
(GASP!) WH-WHERE?
AS THE GUNMEN WHIRL IN PANIC, THE HANDICAPPED PHYSICIAN SEIZES HIS CANE AND STAMPS IT ON THE FLOOR...
A NOISE... BEHIND US!
THOR!
IN PERSON, GENTLEMEN!
HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO DR. BLAKE?
HE'S HIDING...FOR FEAR THERE MAY BE SOME WILD SHOOTING! NOW CLIMB ABOARD THE OPERATING TABLE, BOYS! YOU'RE GOING FOR A RIDE!
THEN, AS THE GANGSTERS OBEY IN MUTE FEAR...
WH-WHY ARE YOU STRAPPIN' US TO THE TABLE WITH THAT ADHESIVE TAPE?
BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING ON A LITTLE TRIP, AND I WANT YOU ALL TO HAVE "SAFETY BELTS."
4


YOU GONNA PUSH THIS THING TO THE POLICE PRECINCT?
OH, NO! THAT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG! YOU'RE GOING TO FLY THERE! FIRST I'LL TAPE MY HAMMER TO THE TABLE...
...THEN GIVE IT A FEW RAPID SPINS...
...AND AWAY YOU GO!
A FEW SECONDS LATER...
LOOK! THOR'S HAMMER DELIVERING THE JEWEL ROBBERS WHO GOT AWAY...
BUT WHY ARE THEY STRAPPED TO AN OPERATING TABLE?
IT'S A LONG STORY, MISTER! (GULP) JUST LET'S CALL IT... OPERATION THOR!
THEN, AS THE ENCHANTED HAMMER RETURNS TO ITS MASTER.
HERE COMES JANE, RETURNING FROM THE LAB! I'D BETTER SLIP AWAY AND SWITCH BACK TO MY DR. BLAKE IDENTITY BEFORE SHE GETS SUSPICIOUS!
AND SO, BY THE TIME JANE ENTERS THE OFFICE...
THE CROWD OUTSIDE TOLD ME THOR CAPTURED SOME THUGS IN HERE..
YES, JANE! IN FACT, I OWE MY LIFE TO THOR! IF HE HADN'T SUDDENLY APPEARED, THEY'D HAVE KILLED ME AFTER FORCING ME TO OPERATE ON THEIR GANG LEADER!
SO THE PEOPLE WEREN'T LYING WHEN THEY SAID THOR TURNED YOUR OPERATING TABLE INTO AN AERIAL PATROL WAGON!
NO, JANE! THOR'S A PRETTY INGENIOUS FELLOW..
HE'D BETTER BE.. TO KEEP JANE AND THE WORLD, FROM REALIZING THAT DR. DON BLAKE AND THOR ARE THE SAME MAN!
5

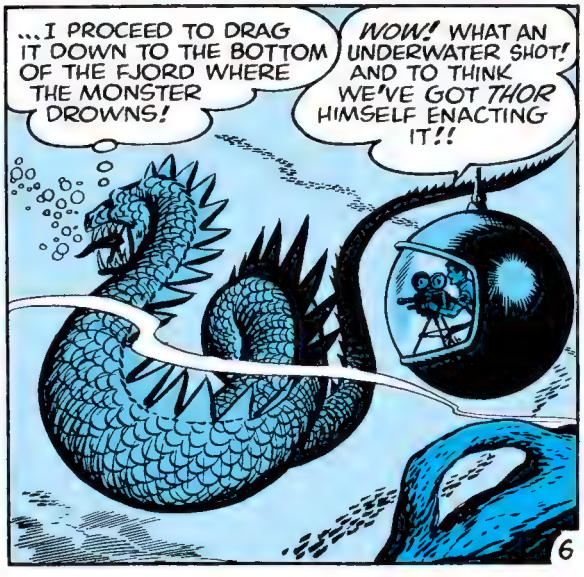

A WEEK LATER, AT A NORWEGIAN SEA PORT...
THANKS, THOR, FOR AGREEING TO PROVIDE THE SPECIAL EFFECTS WE NEED IN THIS VIKING PICTURE!
SINCE THE PROCEEDS FOR MY CONTRIBUTION WILL GO TO VARIOUS CHARITIES, I'M GLAD TO HELP OUT!

IT INVOLVES THAT SEA SERPENT! DO YOU RECALL THE SCRIPT I SHOWED YOU?
PERFECTLY! ACTIVATE YOUR MECHANICAL SERPENT AND ROW YOUR SHIPS INTO THE FJORD WHILE I TAKE OFF WITH MY MAGIC HAMMER!

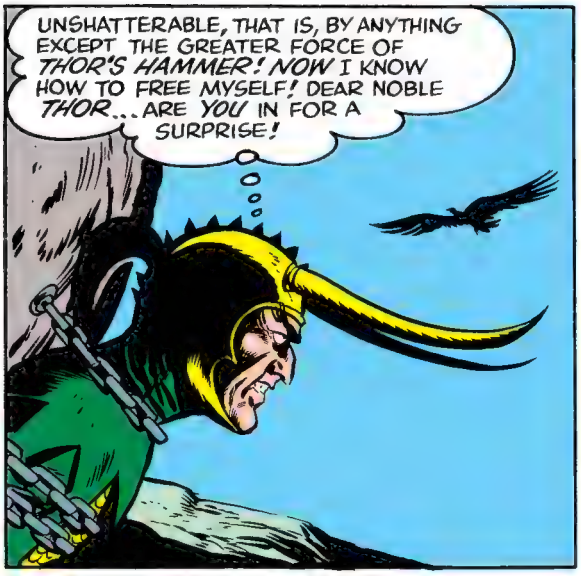

AS THE "SERPENT ATTACK" SCENE BEGINS...
IN THE FILM STORY, I'VE SWORN PROTECTION TO A GOOD TRIBE OF VIKINGS! THUS, WHEN THEY'RE MENACED BY A SEA SERPENT CONJURED UP BY EVIL LOKI, WHO HATES THE MORTALS...

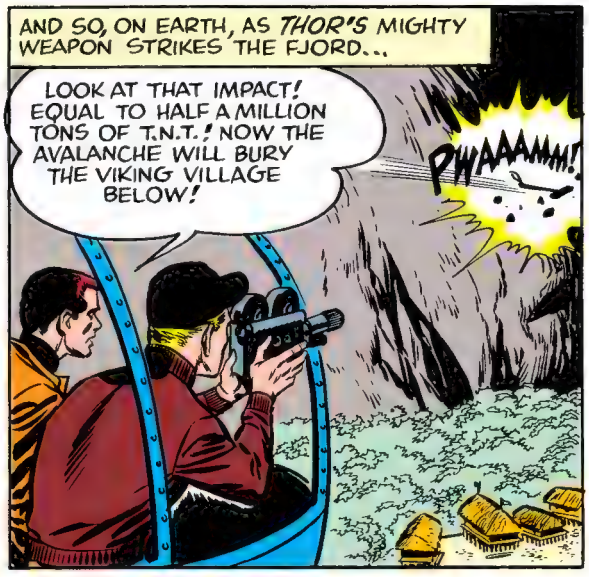

...I'M SUPPOSED TO DEFEAT LOKI'S SCHEME BY FLYING RIGHT INTO THE SERPENTS MOUTH.

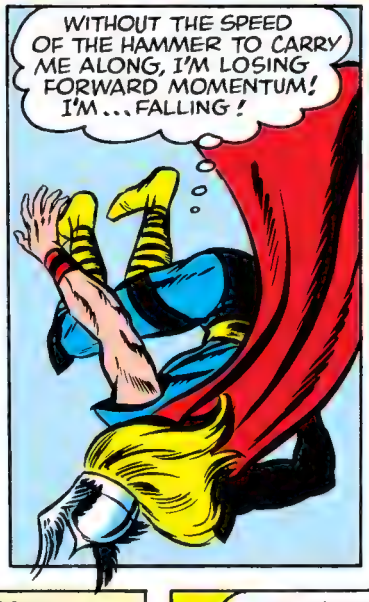
THEN, BECAUSE THE SERPENT CAN'T CLOSE ITS JAWS ON MY POWERFUL BODY...

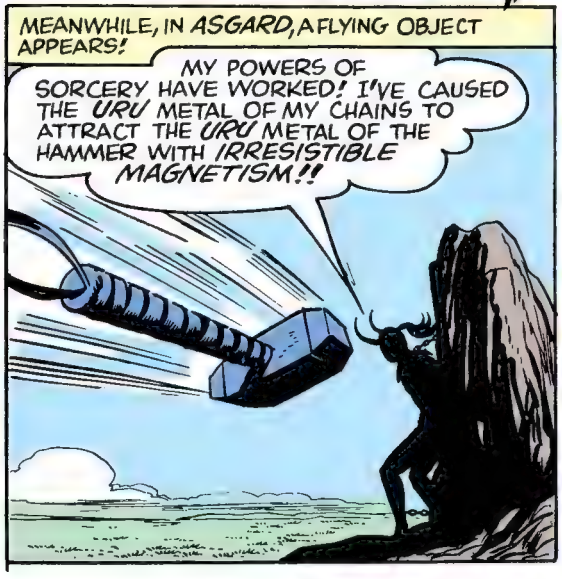

...I PROCEED TO DRAG IT DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE FJORD WHERE THE MONSTER DROWNS!
WOW! WHAT AN UNDERWATER SHOT! AND TO THINK WE'VE GOT THOR HIMSELF ENACTING IT!!

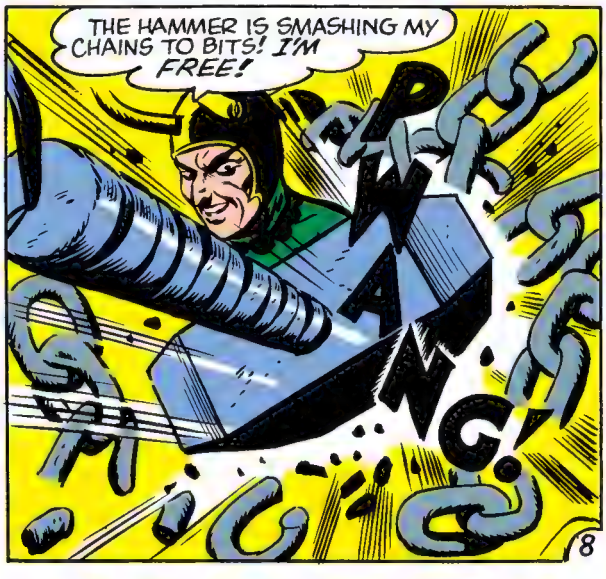
AN HOUR LATER...
NOW, ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPT, LOKI SENDS A FLEET OF WICKED VIKINGS WHO WORSHIP HIM, TO ATTACK THE GOOD VIKING VILLAGE! I PREVENT THIS BY STAMPING MY HAMMER TWICE, THUS CREATING A THUNDER STORM!
THUMP!
THUMP!
NEXT INSTANT, AS A TEMPEST ENGULFS THE INVADERS...
THOSE "EVIL VIKINGS" ARE JUST DUMMY FIGURES TO BE DESTROYED BY THE CHURNING SEAS AND LIGHTNING BOLTS! NOW TO FILM THE FLEETS DESTRUCTION BY FLYING INTO THE TEETH OF THE STORM WHERE NO HUMAN CAMERAMAN CAN GO!
THUNDERATION! WHAT FILM COMPANY EVER BEFORE HAD A MYTHOLOGICAL GOD DO ITS CAMERA-WORK FOR THEM?
YOU BET, B.J.! IT'S A MOVIE FIRST! THIS SEA-DISASTER SCENE WILL MAKE FILM HISTORY!
BUT, IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, ANOTHER PAIR OF EYES BALEFULLY WATCHES THE MIGHTY GOD AT WORK...
MY BODY IS TRAPPED HERE...BUT NOT MY SUPERNATURAL VISION! THERE'S MY ENEMY THOR AT HIS USUAL INSIPID JOB OF HELPING WORTHY CAUSES! AND THE IRONY OF IT...EVEN IN AN EARTH FILM HE'S WRECKING MY EVIL SCHEMES!
BUT, AS LOKI CONTINUES TO EAVESDROP FROM AFAR...
GREAT WORK, THOR! NOW, IN THIS LAST SEQUENCE, YOU HURL YOUR HAMMER AT THAT MOUNTAIN, CAUSING AN AVALANCHE TO BURY THE VILLAINOUS VIKING VILLAGE!
AHHH! THIS IS MY BIG OPPORTUNITY...
OOOO
THOR'S HAMMER IS MADE OF THE SAME MAGIC MINERAL AS MY CHAINS... THE METAL URU! THAT'S WHY MY CHAINS ARE UNSHATTERABLE!
7



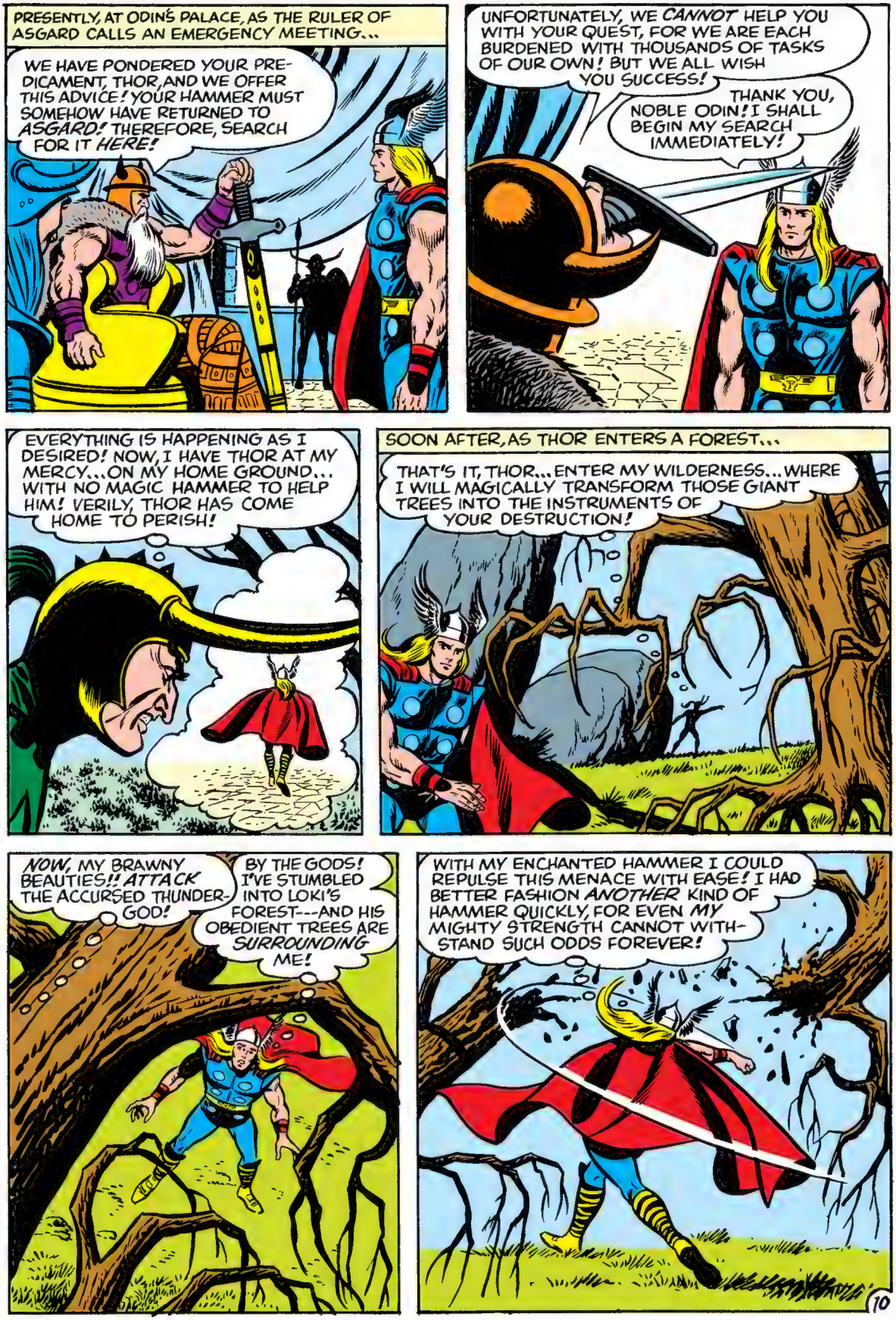


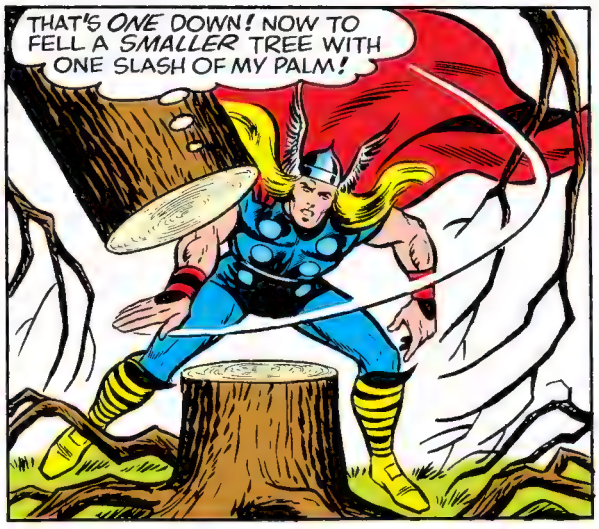


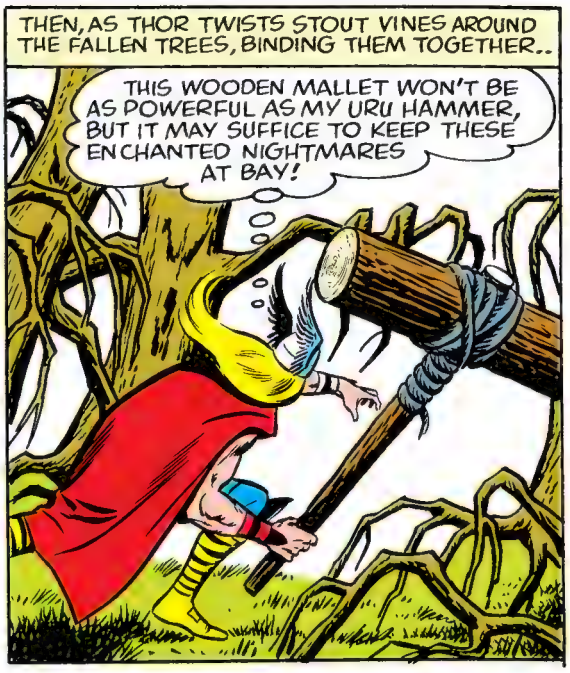


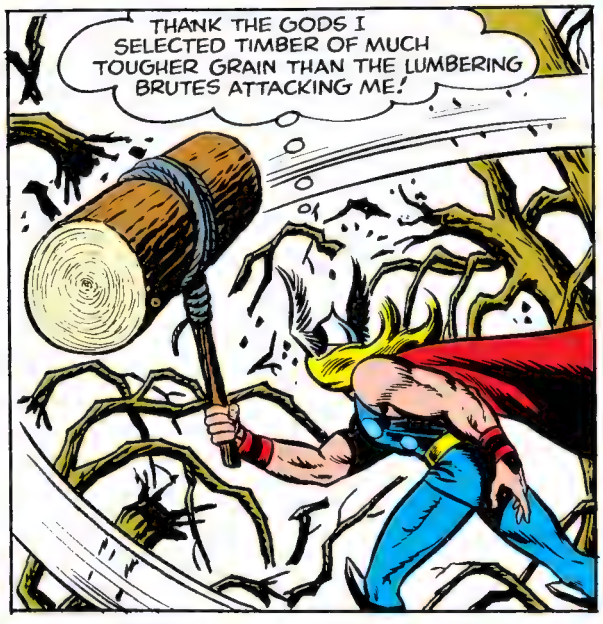

THE HAMMER IS SMASHING MY CHAINS TO BITS! *I'M FREE!*
KRAKK!
KRAKK!
KRAKK!

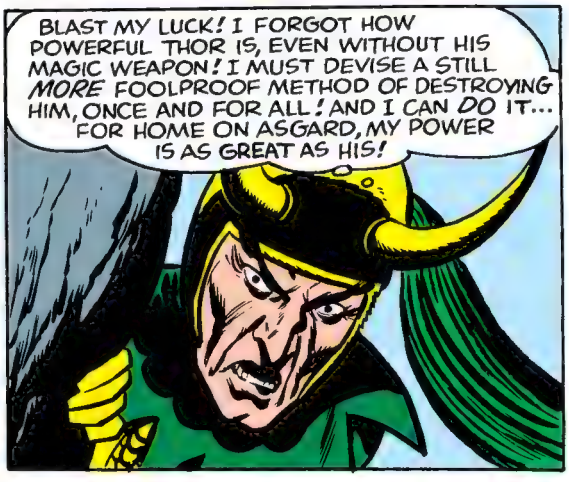
I'VE TRIUMPHED! AND THOR'S HAMMER LIES HERE... CLINGING MAGNETICALLY TO THE DEBRIS OF CHAINS IT SHATTERED!
THOR IS ALMOST POWERLESS WITHOUT HIS HAMMER! SO I'LL USE MY BLACK ARTS TO PUT AN IDEA IN HIS MIND! THUS FAR THOR HAS ONLY DEFEATED ME ON EARTH, WHICH THOR KNOWS FAR BETTER THAN I!
BUT, IN ASGARD I AM ON HOME GROUND! I HAVE A BETTER CHANCE TO VANQUISH HIM HERE...SO I WILL LURE THOR TO ASGARD... TO HIS DOOM!
FUNNY...AN IDEA JUST ENTERED MY MIND...TO SUMMON ODIN! AND I MUST DO IT BEFORE SIXTY SECONDS ELAPSE!
IN THE PAST, WHEN I'VE BEEN IN DANGER, I'VE CALLED UPON THE KING OF THE GODS, ODIN, MY FATHER, TO HELP ME! AND HE HAS NEVER FAILED ME!
OH, GREAT ODIN, WISEST OF ALL THE GODS! HEAR YOUR SON'S PLEA AND APPEAR BEFORE ME!
YOUR APPEAL HAS REACHED MY EARS, THOR! WHAT TROUBLE BESET MY FAVORITE SON?
MY HAMMER HAS MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED! HELP ME FIND IT FOR I KNOW NOT WHERE TO LOOK!
THE SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM REQUIRES THE COMBINED POWERS OF ALL THE GODS! SINCE YOUR HAMMER CANNOT NOW TAKE YOU THROUGH THE SEGMENTS OF TIME AND SPACE, I SHALL TRANSPORT YOU TO ASGARD MYSELF!
WHAT A STROKE OF FORTUNE! WHEN ODIN APPEARS ON EARTH, TIME STANDS STILL..SO I SHALL NOT TURN BACK TO DR. BLAKE, EVEN THOUGH MY HAMMER HAS NOW BEEN GONE FOR SIXTY SECONDS! ONCE IN ASGARD, I CAN REMAIN THOR INDEFINITELY!
MY PLAN IS WORKING OUT PERFECTLY! ODIN IS BRINGING THOR TO ASGARD! NOW TO USE MORE SORCERY TO PUT MY "SOLUTION" INTO THE BRAINS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE GODS!


PRESENTLY, AT ODIN'S PALACE, AS THE RULER OF ASGARD CALLS AN EMERGENCY MEETING...
WE HAVE PONDERED YOUR PREDICAMENT, THOR, AND WE OFFER THIS ADVICE! YOUR HAMMER MUST SOMEHOW HAVE RETURNED TO ASGARD! THEREFORE, SEARCH FOR IT HERE!
UNFORTUNATELY, WE CANNOT HELP YOU WITH YOUR QUEST, FOR WE ARE EACH BURDENED WITH THOUSANDS OF TASKS OF OUR OWN! BUT WE ALL WISH YOU SUCCESS!
THANK YOU, NOBLE ODIN! I SHALL BEGIN MY SEARCH IMMEDIATELY!
EVERYTHING IS HAPPENING AS I DESIRED! NOW, I HAVE THOR AT MY MERCY...ON MY HOME GROUND... WITH NO MAGIC HAMMER TO HELP HIM! VERILY, THOR HAS COME HOME TO PERISH!
SOON AFTER, AS THOR ENTERS A FOREST...
THAT'S IT, THOR... ENTER MY WILDERNESS... WHERE I WILL MAGICALLY TRANSFORM THOSE GIANT TREES INTO THE INSTRUMENTS OF YOUR DESTRUCTION!
NOW, MY BRAWNY BEAUTIES!! ATTACK THE ACCURSED THUNDER-GOD!
BY THE GODS! I'VE STUMBLED INTO LOKI'S FOREST---AND HIS OBEDIENT TREES ARE SURROUNDING ME!
WITH MY ENCHANTED HAMMER I COULD REPULSE THIS MENACE WITH EASE! I HAD BETTER FASHION ANOTHER KIND OF HAMMER QUICKLY, FOR EVEN MY MIGHTY STRENGTH CANNOT WITHSTAND SUCH ODDS FOREVER!


THAT'S ONE DOWN! NOW TO FELL A SMALLER TREE WITH ONE SLASH OF MY PALM!

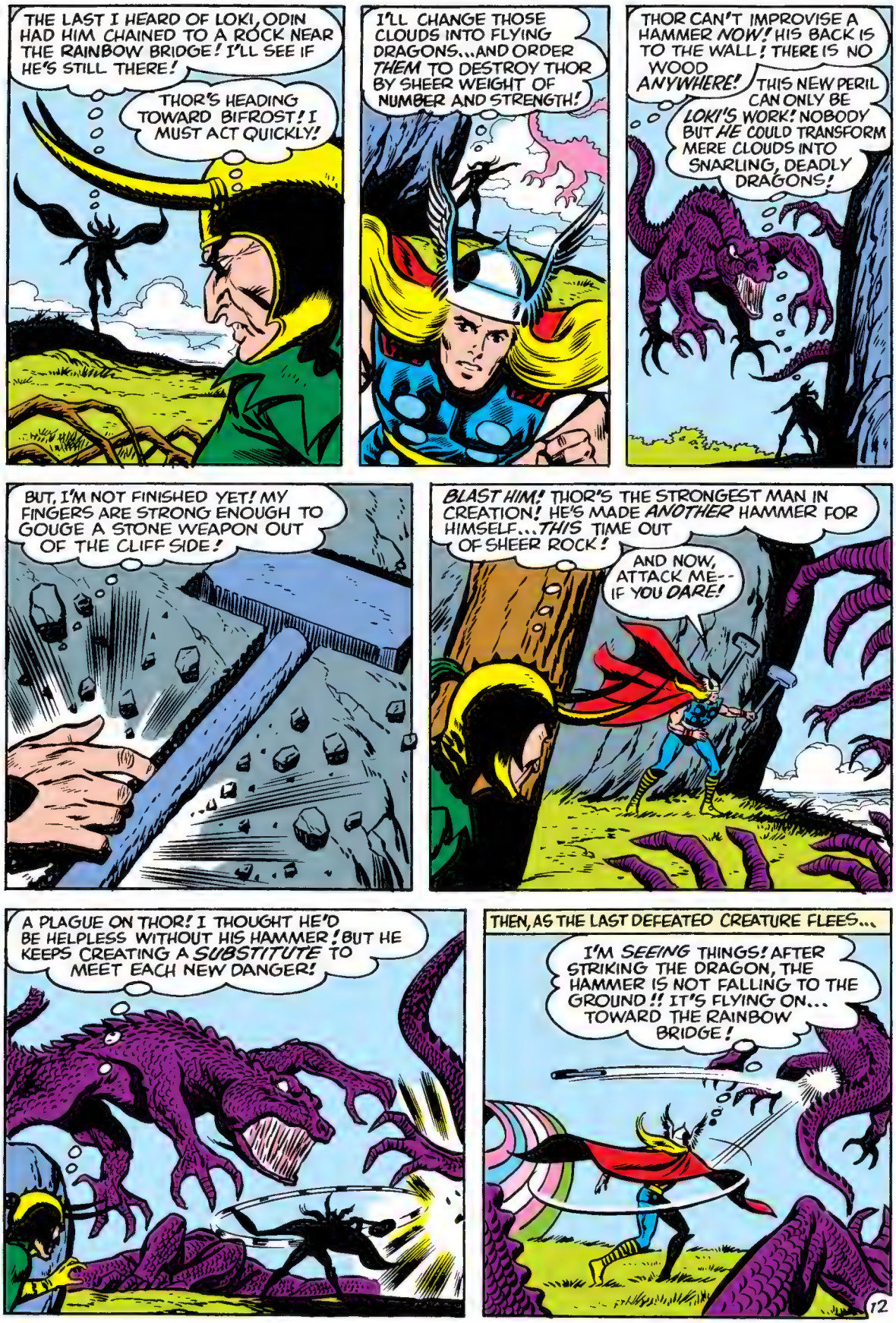

THEN, AS THOR TWISTS STOUT VINES AROUND THE FALLEN TREES, BINDING THEM TOGETHER..
THIS WOODEN MALLET WON'T BE AS POWERFUL AS MY URU HAMMER, BUT IT MAY SUFFICE TO KEEP THESE ENCHANTED NIGHTMARES AT BAY!

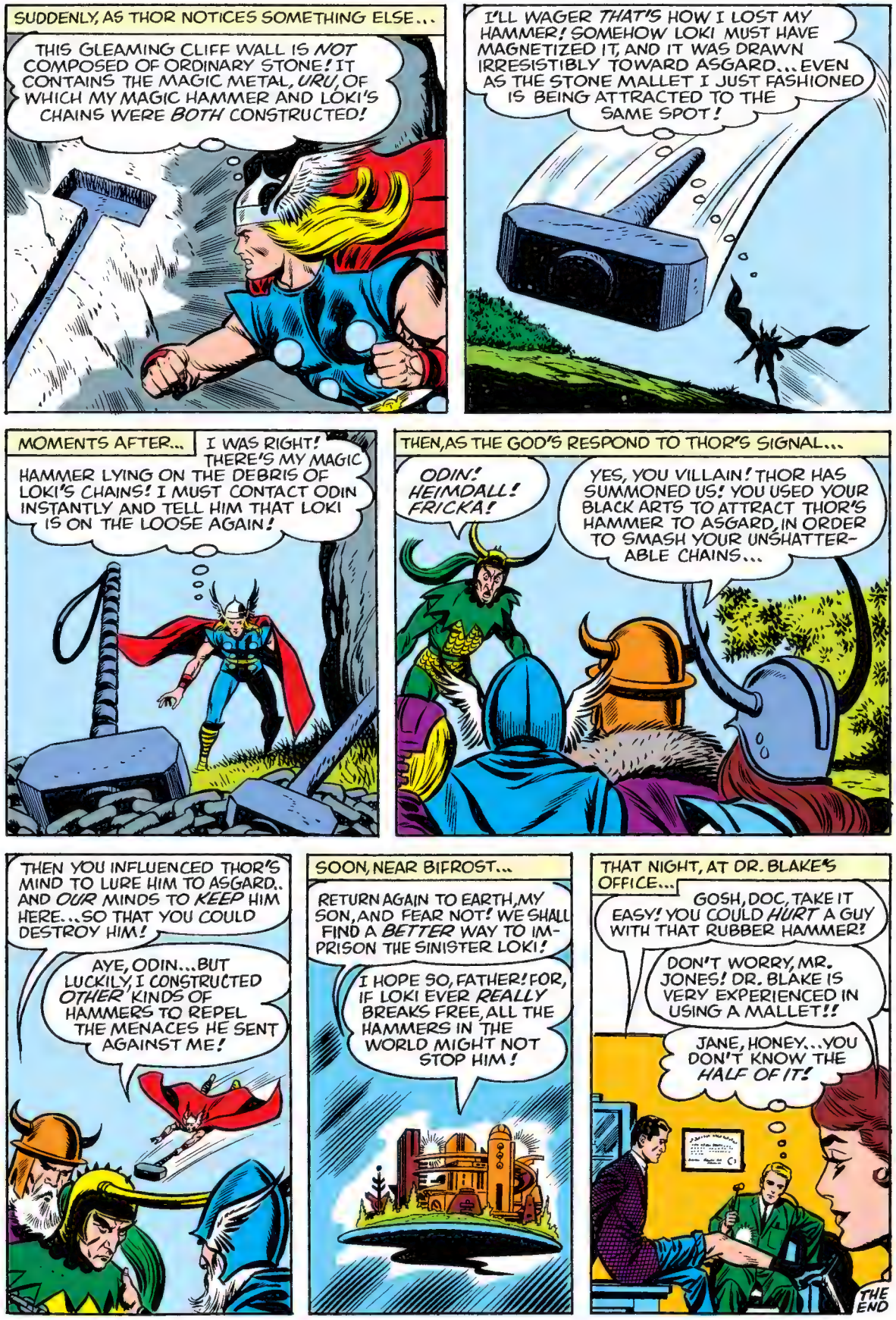

THANK THE GODS I SELECTED TIMBER OF MUCH TOUGHER GRAIN THAN THE LUMBERING BRUTES ATTACKING ME!

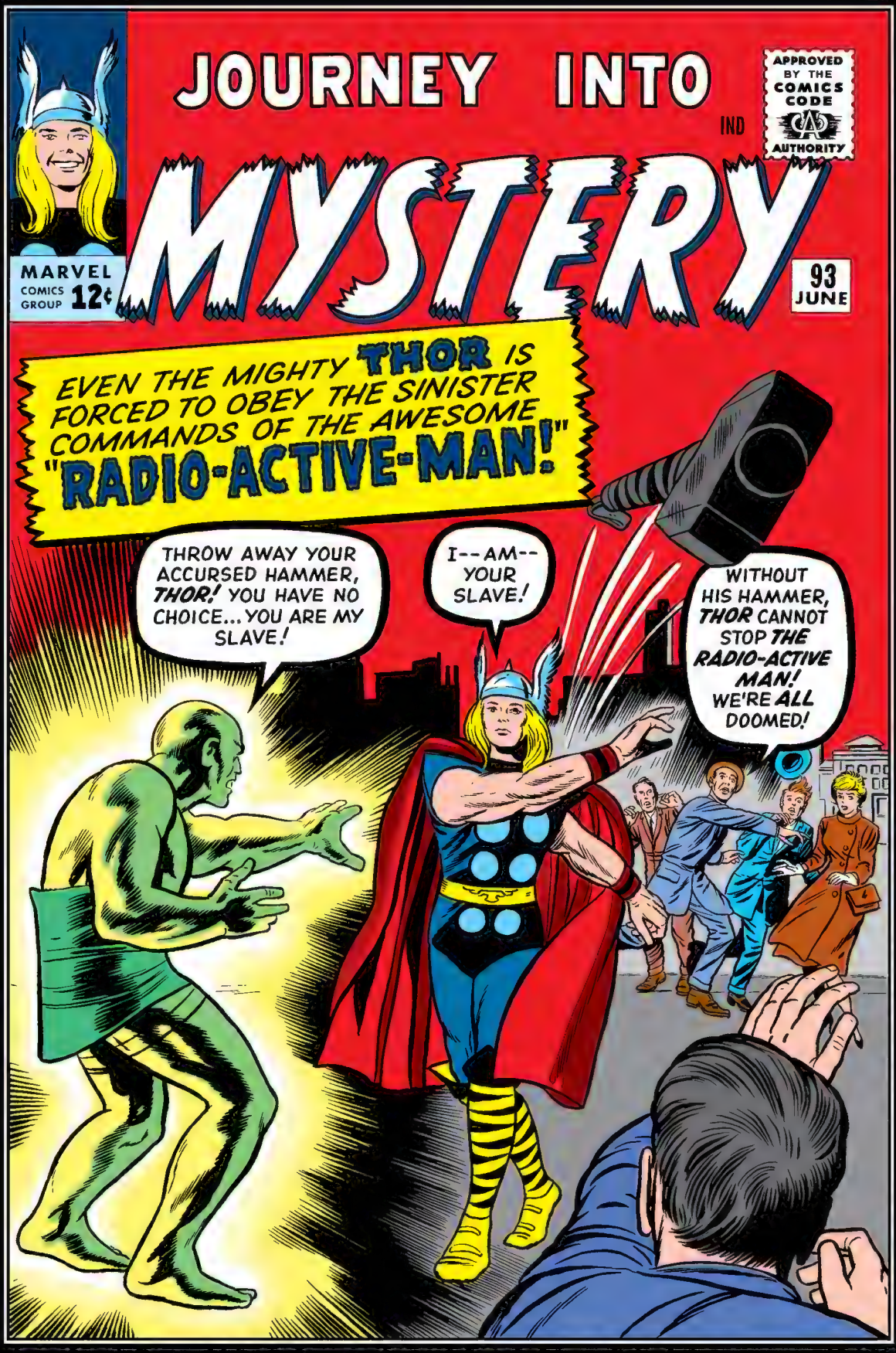

BLAST MY LUCK! I FORGOT HOW POWERFUL THOR IS, EVEN WITHOUT HIS MAGIC WEAPON! I MUST DEVISE A STILL MORE FOOLPROOF METHOD OF DESTROYING HIM, ONCE AND FOR ALL! AND I CAN DO IT... FOR HOME ON ASGARD, MY POWER IS AS GREAT AS HIS!

MEANWHILE, I'LL SOON DISPOSE OF HIS WOODEN HAMMER!
MY WEAPON IS BURNING UP, AS IF BY MAGIC!

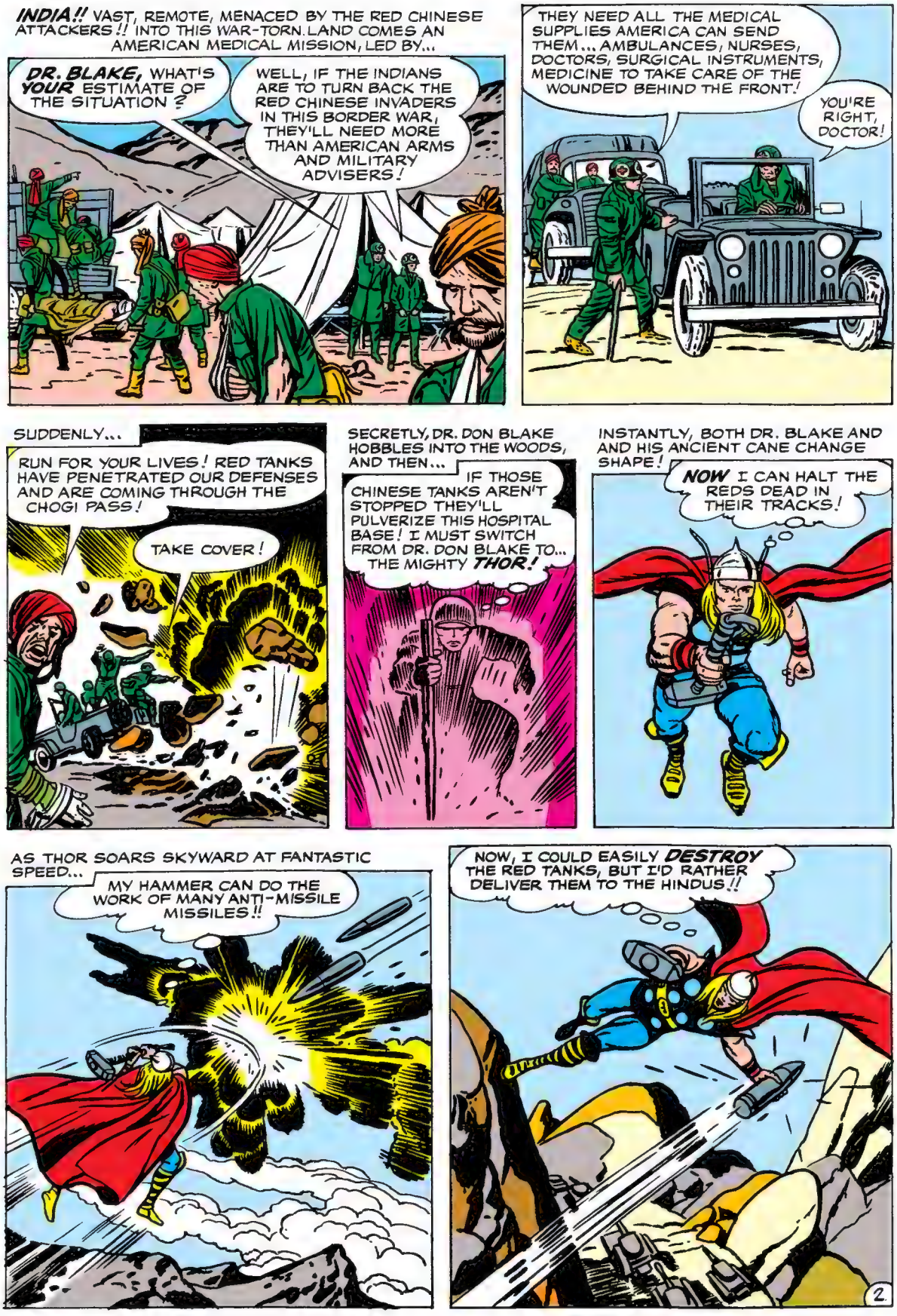
MAGIC!? WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT BEFORE? LOKI, THAT MASTER OF MAGIC, MIGHT HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY HAMMER'S DISAPPEARANCE!

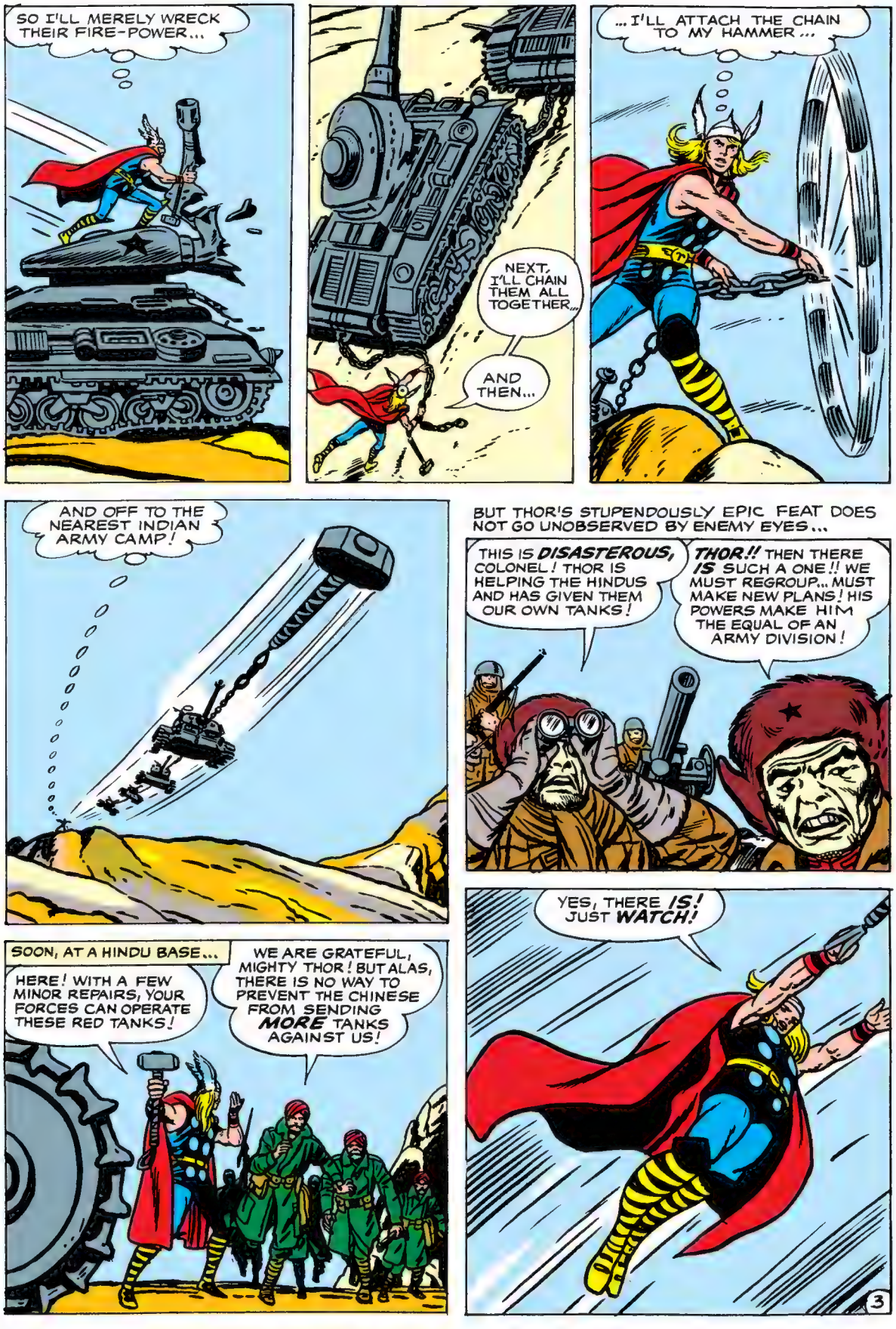

THE LAST I HEARD OF LOKI, ODIN HAD HIM CHAINED TO A ROCK NEAR THE RAINBOW BRIDGE! I'LL SEE IF HE'S STILL THERE!
THOR'S HEADING TOWARD BIFROST! I MUST ACT QUICKLY!
I'LL CHANGE THOSE CLOUDS INTO FLYING DRAGONS...AND ORDER THEM TO DESTROY THOR BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBER AND STRENGTH!
THOR CAN'T IMPROVISE A HAMMER NOW! HIS BACK IS TO THE WALL! THERE IS NO WOOD ANYWHERE!
THIS NEW PERIL CAN ONLY BE LOKI'S WORK! NOBODY BUT HE COULD TRANSFORM MERE CLOUDS INTO SNARLING, DEADLY DRAGONS!
BUT, I'M NOT FINISHED YET! MY FINGERS ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO GOUGE A STONE WEAPON OUT OF THE CLIFF SIDE!
BLAST HIM! THOR'S THE STRONGEST MAN IN CREATION! HE'S MADE ANOTHER HAMMER FOR HIMSELF...THIS TIME OUT OF SHEER ROCK!
AND NOW, ATTACK ME--IF YOU DARE!
A PLAGUE ON THOR! I THOUGHT HE'D BE HELPLESS WITHOUT HIS HAMMER! BUT HE KEEPS CREATING A SUBSTITUTE TO MEET EACH NEW DANGER!
THEN, AS THE LAST DEFEATED CREATURE FLEES...
I'M SEEING THINGS! AFTER STRIKING THE DRAGON, THE HAMMER IS NOT FALLING TO THE GROUND!! IT'S FLYING ON... TOWARD THE RAINBOW BRIDGE!

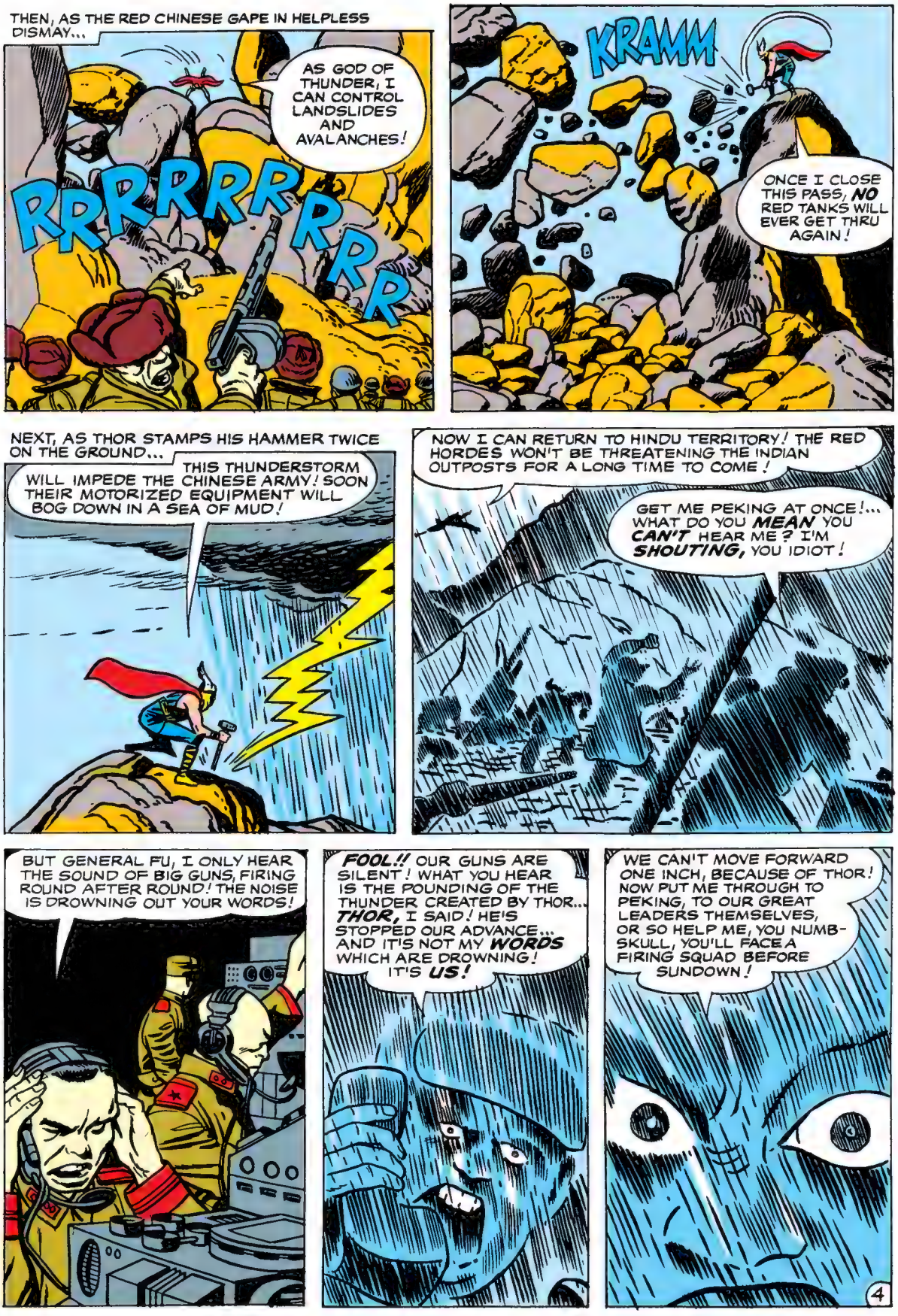

SUDDENLY, AS THOR NOTICES SOMETHING ELSE...
THIS GLEAMING CLIFF WALL IS NOT COMPOSED OF ORDINARY STONE! IT CONTAINS THE MAGIC METAL, URU, OF WHICH MY MAGIC HAMMER AND LOKI'S CHAINS WERE BOTH CONSTRUCTED!
I'LL WAGER THAT'S HOW I LOST MY HAMMER! SOMEHOW LOKI MUST HAVE MAGNETIZED IT, AND IT WAS DRAWN IRRESISTIBLY TOWARD ASGARD... EVEN AS THE STONE MALLET I JUST FASHIONED IS BEING ATTRACTED TO THE SAME SPOT!
MOMENTS AFTER...
I WAS RIGHT! THERE'S MY MAGIC HAMMER LYING ON THE DEBRIS OF LOKI'S CHAINS! I MUST CONTACT ODIN INSTANTLY AND TELL HIM THAT LOKI IS ON THE LOOSE AGAIN!
THEN, AS THE GOD'S RESPOND TO THOR'S SIGNAL...
ODIN! HEIMDALL! FRICKA!
YES, YOU VILLAIN! THOR HAS SUMMONED US! YOU USED YOUR BLACK ARTS TO ATTRACT THOR'S HAMMER TO ASGARD, IN ORDER TO SMASH YOUR UNSHATTERABLE CHAINS...
THEN YOU INFLUENCED THOR'S MIND TO LURE HIM TO ASGARD.. AND OUR MINDS TO KEEP HIM HERE...SO THAT YOU COULD DESTROY HIM!
AYE, ODIN...BUT LUCKILY, I CONSTRUCTED OTHER KINDS OF HAMMERS TO REPEL THE MENACES HE SENT AGAINST ME!
SOON, NEAR BIFROST...
RETURN AGAIN TO EARTH, MY SON, AND FEAR NOT! WE SHALL FIND A BETTER WAY TO IMPRISON THE SINISTER LOKI!
I HOPE SO, FATHER! FOR, IF LOKI EVER REALLY BREAKS FREE, ALL THE HAMMERS IN THE WORLD MIGHT NOT STOP HIM!
THAT NIGHT, AT DR. BLAKE'S OFFICE...
GOSH, DOC, TAKE IT EASY! YOU COULD HURT A GUY WITH THAT RUBBER HAMMER!
DON'T WORRY, MR. JONES! DR. BLAKE IS VERY EXPERIENCED IN USING A MALLET!!
JANE, HONEY...YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT!
THE END


JOURNEY INTO
IND
MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
93 JUNE
EVEN THE MIGHTY THOR IS FORCED TO OBEY THE SINISTER COMMANDS OF THE AWESOME "RADIO-ACTIVE-MAN!"
THROW AWAY YOUR ACCURSED HAMMER, THOR! YOU HAVE NO CHOICE... YOU ARE MY SLAVE!
I--AM--YOUR SLAVE!
WITHOUT HIS HAMMER, THOR CANNOT STOP THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN! WE'RE ALL DOOMED!

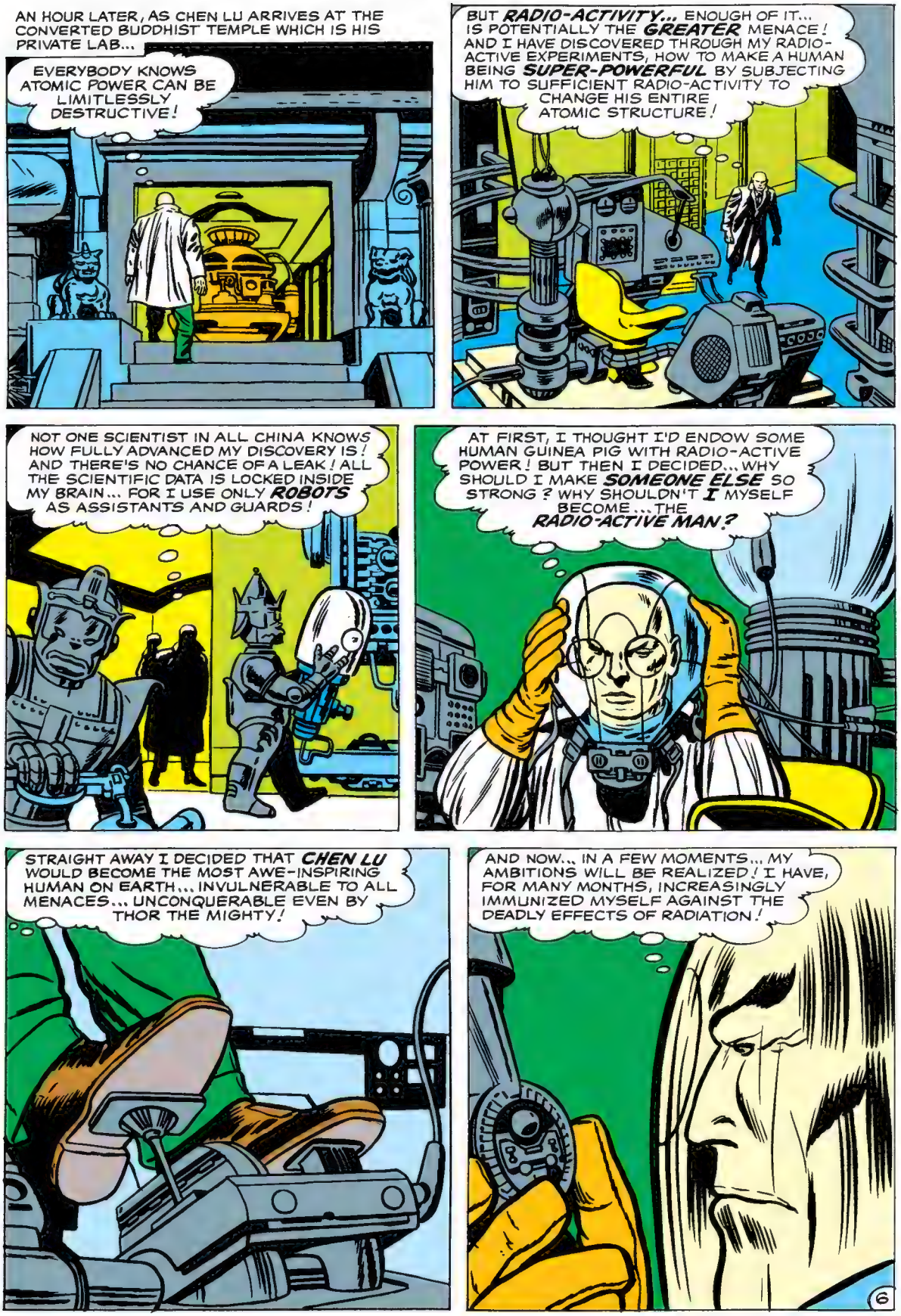
OUT OF THE SINISTER, SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES OF RED CHINA IS SPAWNED A NEW KIND OF MENACE, DESIGNED ONLY FOR ONE PURPOSE ... TO DESTROY MIGHTY THOR, PROTECTOR OF DEMOCRACY! THAT IS THE BACKGROUND, AND THIS IS THE STORY! THE TITANTIC TALE OF ...
THE MIGHTY THOR! VERSUS...
"The Mysterious RADIO-ACTIVE MAN!"
BY ODIN! SOMETHING HAS DEFLECTED MY HAMMER! I CAN NOT INJURE YOU!
EXACTLY, THOR! THE RADIATIONS OF MY BODY HAVE TURNED YOUR NOW-USELESS WEAPON ASIDE!
GREAT GUNS! THOR IS DONE FOR! HE'S AT THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN'S MERCY... AND THAT MEANS WE ARE, TOO!!!
PLOT: STAN LEE
SCRIPT: R. BERNS
ART: JACK KIRBY
INKING: DICK AYERS
LETTERING: R. HOLLOWAY
X-202
1

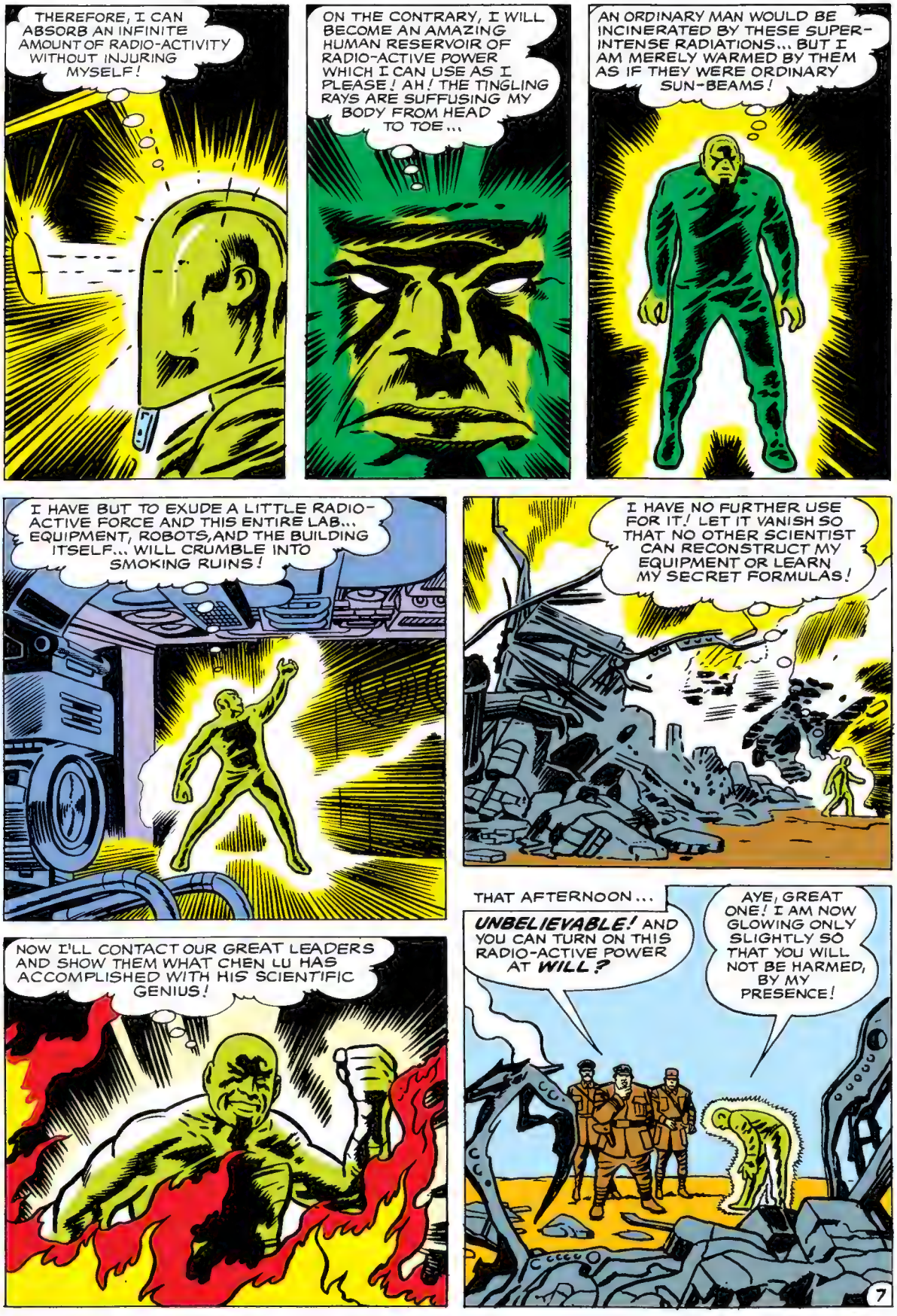

INDIA!! VAST, REMOTE, MENACED BY THE RED CHINESE ATTACKERS!! INTO THIS WAR-TORN LAND COMES AN AMERICAN MEDICAL MISSION, LED BY...
DR. BLAKE, WHAT'S YOUR ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION?
WELL, IF THE INDIANS ARE TO TURN BACK THE RED CHINESE INVADERS IN THIS BORDER WAR, THEY'LL NEED MORE THAN AMERICAN ARMS AND MILITARY ADVISERS!
THEY NEED ALL THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES AMERICA CAN SEND THEM... AMBULANCES, NURSES, DOCTORS, SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, MEDICINE TO TAKE CARE OF THE WOUNDED BEHIND THE FRONT!
YOU'RE RIGHT, DOCTOR!
SUDDENLY...
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! RED TANKS HAVE PENETRATED OUR DEFENSES AND ARE COMING THROUGH THE CHOGI PASS!
TAKE COVER!
SECRETLY, DR. DON BLAKE HOBBLES INTO THE WOODS, AND THEN...
IF THOSE CHINESE TANKS AREN'T STOPPED THEY'LL PULVERIZE THIS HOSPITAL BASE! I MUST SWITCH FROM DR. DON BLAKE TO... THE MIGHTY THOR!
INSTANTLY, BOTH DR. BLAKE AND AND HIS ANCIENT CANE CHANGE SHAPE!
NOW I CAN HALT THE REDS DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS!
AS THOR SOARS SKYWARD AT FANTASTIC SPEED...
MY HAMMER CAN DO THE WORK OF MANY ANTI-MISSILE MISSILES!!
NOW, I COULD EASILY DESTROY THE RED TANKS, BUT I'D RATHER DELIVER THEM TO THE HINDUS!!
2


SO I'LL MERELY WRECK THEIR FIRE-POWER...
NEXT, I'LL CHAIN THEM ALL TOGETHER...
AND THEN...
...I'LL ATTACH THE CHAIN TO MY HAMMER...
AND OFF TO THE NEAREST INDIAN ARMY CAMP!
BUT THOR'S STUPENDOUSLY EPIC FEAT DOES NOT GO UNOBSERVED BY ENEMY EYES...
THIS IS DISASTEROUS, COLONEL! THOR IS HELPING THE HINDUS AND HAS GIVEN THEM OUR OWN TANKS!
THOR!! IF THERE IS SUCH A ONE!! WE MUST REGROUP... MUST MAKE NEW PLANS! HIS POWERS MAKE HIM THE EQUAL OF AN ARMY DIVISION!
SOON, AT A HINDU BASE...
HERE! WITH A FEW MINOR REPAIRS, YOUR FORCES CAN OPERATE THESE RED TANKS!
WE ARE GRATEFUL, MIGHTY THOR! BUT ALAS, THERE IS NO WAY TO PREVENT THE CHINESE FROM SENDING MORE TANKS AGAINST US!
YES, THERE IS! JUST WATCH!

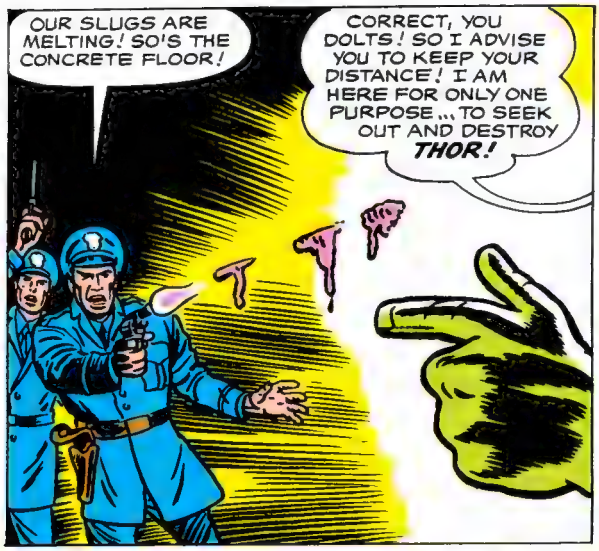

THEN, AS THE RED CHINESE GAPE IN HELPLESS DISMAY...
AS GOD OF THUNDER, I CAN CONTROL LANDSLIDES AND AVALANCHES!
RRRRRRRRR
KRAMM
ONCE I CLOSE THIS PASS, NO RED TANKS WILL EVER GET THRU AGAIN!
NEXT, AS THOR STAMPS HIS HAMMER TWICE ON THE GROUND...
THIS THUNDERSTORM WILL IMPEDE THE CHINESE ARMY! SOON THEIR MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT WILL BOG DOWN IN A SEA OF MUD!
NOW I CAN RETURN TO HINDU TERRITORY! THE RED HORDES WON'T BE THREATENING THE INDIAN OUTPOSTS FOR A LONG TIME TO COME!
GET ME PEKING AT ONCE!... WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T HEAR ME? I'M SHOUTING, YOU IDIOT!
BUT GENERAL FU, I ONLY HEAR THE SOUND OF BIG GUNS, FIRING ROUND AFTER ROUND! THE NOISE IS DROWNING OUT YOUR WORDS!
FOOL!! OUR GUNS ARE SILENT! WHAT YOU HEAR IS THE POUNDING OF THE THUNDER CREATED BY THOR... THOR, I SAID! HE'S STOPPED OUR ADVANCE... AND IT'S NOT MY WORDS WHICH ARE DROWNING! IT'S US!
WE CAN'T MOVE FORWARD ONE INCH, BECAUSE OF THOR! NOW PUT ME THROUGH TO PEKING, TO OUR GREAT LEADERS THEMSELVES, OR SO HELP ME, YOU NUMB-SKULL, YOU'LL FACE A FIRING SQUAD BEFORE SUNDOWN!
4

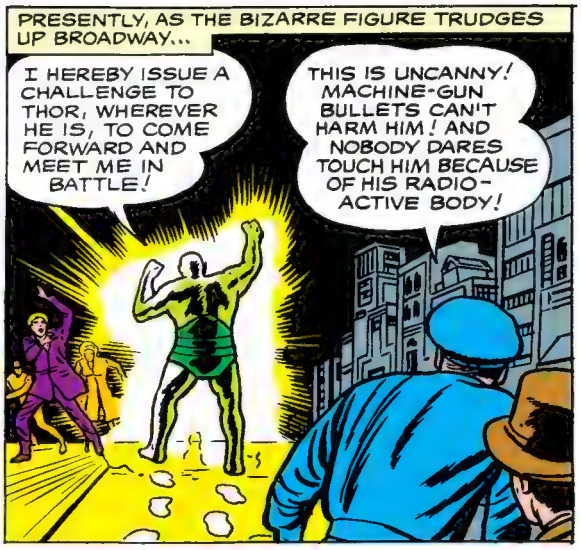
NEXT MORNING, AT COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS IN PEKING...
...NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT THOR'S VICTORY OVER OUR ARMY... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT? THOR IS THE MIGHTIEST FIGHTING FORCE ON EARTH!
SILENCE! SUCH TALK IS TREASON! COMMUNISM IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE ON EARTH... AND IT WILL DESTROY EVEN THOR!! I DEMAND SOLUTIONS, RESULTS... NOT WHINING EXCUSES!
YOU ARE OUR GREATEST MILITARY STRATEGISTS... OUR MOST INGENIOUS SCIENTISTS! SPEAK UP! HOW DO WE GET RID OF THOR? I DEMAND IMMEDIATE SUGGESTIONS!
OUR GREAT LEADER IS RIGHT! SOONER OR LATER WE MUST FIGHT THE DEMOCRACIES, AND WE MUST PREPARE FOR IT NOW BY SHAKING THEIR MORALE! WE CAN MAKE FREE MEN TREMBLE BY DESTROYING THEIR HERO-PROTECTOR, THOR!
OH, GREAT ONE, I, CHEN LU, SHALL SPEAK FOR OUR SCIENTISTS! WE'LL WORK DAY AND NIGHT IN OUR SECRET LABORATORIES UNTIL WE CREATE SOMETHING TO DEFEAT THOR!
SO BE IT CHEN! BUT REMEMBER MY WARNING...
...EITHER YOU ERADICATE THOR, OR I WILL ERADICATE YOU! THAT GOES FOR ALL OF YOU! THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE IS DEATH! AM I UNDERSTOOD?
PERFECTLY, GREAT ONE! THOR'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, CHEN LU? DO YOU KNOW OF ANY WAY TO ERADICATE THOR?
YES, COMRADE! AS IT HAPPENS, I DO! NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'LL RETURN TO MY RESEARCH!
WHEN I FINISH MY EXPERIMENTS, NOT ONLY THOR, BUT THE WHOLE WORLD WILL COWER BEFORE MY INVINCIBLE POWER!
5


AN HOUR LATER, AS CHEN LU ARRIVES AT THE CONVERTED BUDDHIST TEMPLE WHICH IS HIS PRIVATE LAB...
EVERYBODY KNOWS ATOMIC POWER CAN BE LIMITLESSLY DESTRUCTIVE!
BUT RADIO-ACTIVITY... ENOUGH OF IT... IS POTENTIALLY THE GREATER MENACE! AND I HAVE DISCOVERED THROUGH MY RADIO-ACTIVE EXPERIMENTS, HOW TO MAKE A HUMAN BEING SUPER-POWERFUL BY SUBJECTING HIM TO SUFFICIENT RADIO-ACTIVITY TO CHANGE HIS ENTIRE ATOMIC STRUCTURE!
NOT ONE SCIENTIST IN ALL CHINA KNOWS HOW FULLY ADVANCED MY DISCOVERY IS! AND THERE'S NO CHANCE OF A LEAK! ALL THE SCIENTIFIC DATA IS LOCKED INSIDE MY BRAIN... FOR I USE ONLY ROBOTS AS ASSISTANTS AND GUARDS!
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT I'D ENDOW SOME HUMAN GUINEA PIG WITH RADIO-ACTIVE POWER! BUT THEN I DECIDED... WHY SHOULD I MAKE SOMEONE ELSE SO STRONG? WHY SHOULDN'T I MYSELF BECOME ...THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN?
STRAIGHT AWAY I DECIDED THAT CHEN LU WOULD BECOME THE MOST AWE-INSPIRING HUMAN ON EARTH... INVULNERABLE TO ALL MENACES... UNCONQUERABLE EVEN BY THOR THE MIGHTY!
AND NOW... IN A FEW MOMENTS... MY AMBITIONS WILL BE REALIZED! I HAVE, FOR MANY MONTHS, INCREASINGLY IMMUNIZED MYSELF AGAINST THE DEADLY EFFECTS OF RADIATION!
6

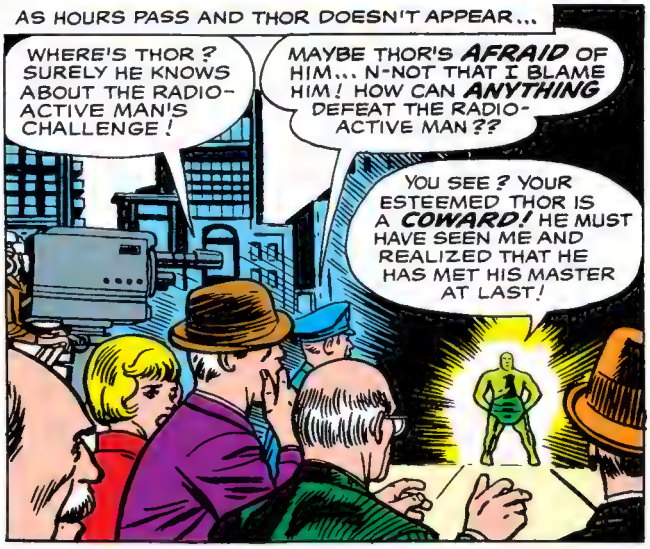

THEREFORE, I CAN ABSORB AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF RADIO-ACTIVITY WITHOUT INJURING MYSELF!
ON THE CONTRARY, I WILL BECOME AN AMAZING HUMAN RESERVOIR OF RADIO-ACTIVE POWER WHICH I CAN USE AS I PLEASE! AH! THE TINGLING RAYS ARE SUFFUSING MY BODY FROM HEAD TO TOE...
AN ORDINARY MAN WOULD BE INCINERATED BY THESE SUPER-INTENSE RADIATIONS... BUT I AM MERELY WARMED BY THEM AS IF THEY WERE ORDINARY SUN-BEAMS!
I HAVE BUT TO EXUDE A LITTLE RADIO-ACTIVE FORCE AND THIS ENTIRE LAB... EQUIPMENT, ROBOTS, AND THE BUILDING ITSELF... WILL CRUMBLE INTO SMOKING RUINS!
I HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR IT! LET IT VANISH SO THAT NO OTHER SCIENTIST CAN RECONSTRUCT MY EQUIPMENT OR LEARN MY SECRET FORMULAS!
NOW I'LL CONTACT OUR GREAT LEADERS AND SHOW THEM WHAT CHEN LU HAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH HIS SCIENTIFIC GENIUS!
THAT AFTERNOON...
UNBELIEVABLE! AND YOU CAN TURN ON THIS RADIO-ACTIVE POWER AT WILL?
AYE, GREAT ONE! I AM NOW GLOWING ONLY SLIGHTLY SO THAT YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED, BY MY PRESENCE!

CHEN LU, YOU ARE A GENIUS! WITH SUCH POWER, YOU WILL BECOME OUR GREATEST NATIONAL HERO!
AYE, MASTER... ESPECIALLY AFTER I GET RID OF THOR! LET ME TELL YOU HOW I INTEND TO DISPOSE OF HIM...
A WEEK LATER, IN A RED CHINESE SUBMARINE OFF THE U.S. COAST...
CHEN LU, WE ARE ONLY A FEW MILES NOW FROM THE AMERICAN SHORE-LINE!
GOOD! STAY OUTSIDE THE THREE MILE LIMIT AND FIRE ME OUT OF AN EMPTY TORPEDO TUBE!
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR GLORIOUS MISSION!
I NEED NO LUCK! I AM INVINCIBLE! NOW... FIRE!!
I NEED ONLY TURN ON MY RADIO-ACTIVE HEAT AND THE TORPEDO CASING WILL MELT AWAY!
ALLOWING ME TO SWIM THE REMAINING DISTANCE!
NEW YORK CITY... LITTLE DO THEY SUSPECT WHAT IS IN STORE FOR THEM!! I'LL GIVE THE AMERICANS THE SHOCK OF THEIR LIVES!
SOON, AS CHEN LU WALKS BRAZENLY THROUGH A CUSTOMS STATION...
HEY! STOP THAT MAN! HE HAS NO PASSPORT... NO PAPERS!
PASSPORT! PAPERS! BAH! USE YOUR GUNS ON ME! THEY CANNOT STOP ME! NOTHING CAN!
CUSTOMS
OMIGOSH! LOOK! H-HE'S TURNED INTO A MASS OF BLINDING LIGHT!
8

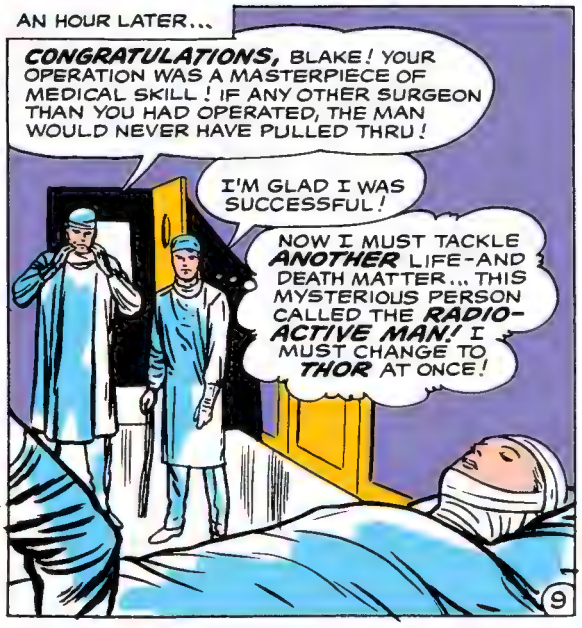

OUR SLUGS ARE MELTING! SO'S THE CONCRETE FLOOR!
CORRECT, YOU DOLTS! SO I ADVISE YOU TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE! I AM HERE FOR ONLY ONE PURPOSE... TO SEEK OUT AND DESTROY THOR!


PRESENTLY, AS THE BIZARRE FIGURE TRUDGES UP BROADWAY...
I HEREBY ISSUE A CHALLENGE TO THOR, WHEREVER HE IS, TO COME FORWARD AND MEET ME IN BATTLE!
THIS IS UNCANNY! MACHINE-GUN BULLETS CAN'T HARM HIM! AND NOBODY DARES TOUCH HIM BECAUSE OF HIS RADIO-ACTIVE BODY!

THEN, IN TIMES SQUARE...
LET IT BE BROADCAST THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THAT I AM WAITING HERE FOR THOR TO SHOW UP TO FIGHT ME! MEANWHILE, DON'T TRY ANY TRICKS! EVEN ARTILLERY SHELLS OR POISON GAS CAN'T HARM ME!
WHAT'S MORE, WE CAN'T EVEN DROP A BOMB ON HIM! HE'S IN THE HEART OF MANHATTAN! TOO MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE WOULD BE HURT!

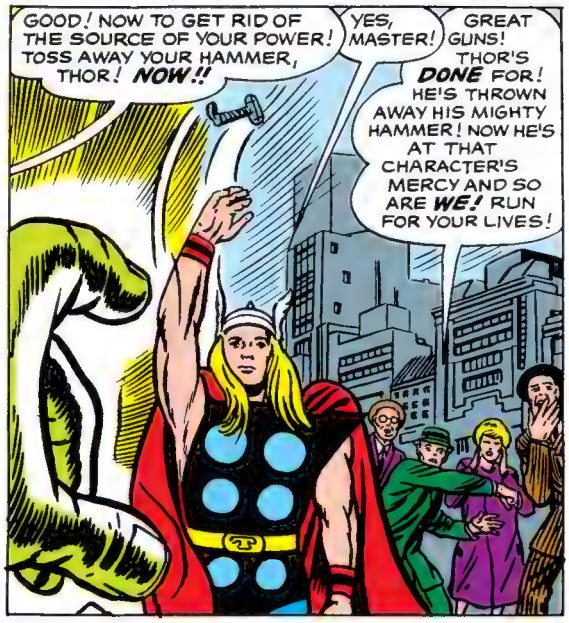

AS HOURS PASS AND THOR DOESN'T APPEAR...
WHERE'S THOR? SURELY HE KNOWS ABOUT THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN'S CHALLENGE!
MAYBE THOR'S AFRAID OF HIM... N-NOT THAT I BLAME HIM! HOW CAN ANYTHING DEFEAT THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN??
YOU SEE? YOUR ESTEEMED THOR IS A COWARD! HE MUST HAVE SEEN ME AND REALIZED THAT HE HAS MET HIS MASTER AT LAST!

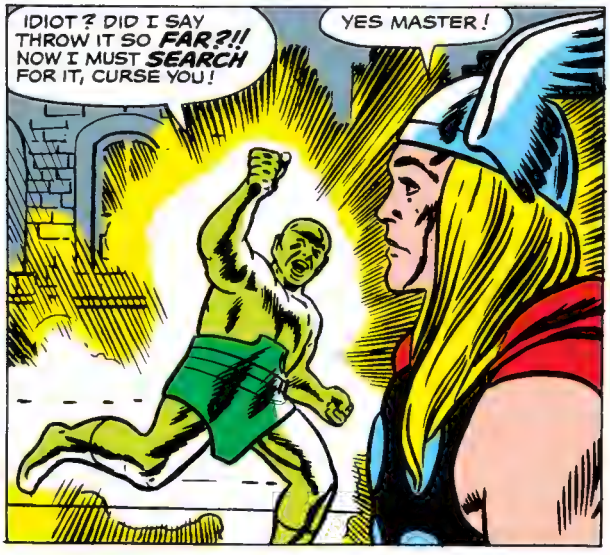
BUT, THOR'S REASON FOR NOT APPEARING IS A SECRET TO EVERYONE EXCEPT DR. DON BLAKE!
THE WHOLE HOSPITAL IS BUZZING ABOUT THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN'S CHALLENGE! BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT IT... YET! THIS OPERATION IS A LIFE-AND-DEATH MATTER AND I CAN'T LEAVE THE OPERATING TABLE TILL MY PATIENT IS OUT OF DANGER!


AN HOUR LATER...
CONGRATULATIONS, BLAKE! YOUR OPERATION WAS A MASTERPIECE OF MEDICAL SKILL! IF ANY OTHER SURGEON THAN YOU HAD OPERATED, THE MAN WOULD NEVER HAVE PULLED THRU!
I'M GLAD I WAS SUCCESSFUL!
NOW I MUST TACKLE ANOTHER LIFE-AND DEATH MATTER... THIS MYSTERIOUS PERSON CALLED THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN! I MUST CHANGE TO THOR AT ONCE!

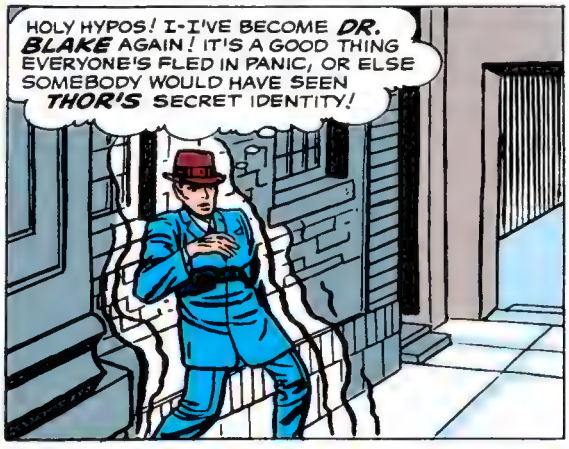
MOMENTS LATER DR. BLAKE SWITCHES TO THOR IN A DESERTED ROOM IN THE HOSPITAL...
LOOK! THERE'S THOR NOW!
AH! SO YOU FINALLY DARE TO CONFRONT ME, THOR!
WHY SHOULD I NOT? WHAT'S SO INVINCIBLE ABOUT YOU?
MY RADIO-ACTIVE POWER! I'LL DESTROY YOU WITH IT!
SAY THAT AFTER YOU FEEL MY HAMMER'S STING!
BUT, AMAZINGLY...
BY ODIN! SOMETHING HAS DEFLECTED MY HAMMER!
BEHOLD, THOR! THE RADIATIONS OF MY BODY TURNED IT ASIDE! PERHAPS YOU CAN THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE TO HARM ME?
THE FORCES OF THE ELEMENTS ARE MINE TO CONTROL! NO ONE CAN WITHSTAND MY LIGHTNING BOLTS!
NO ONE BUT... ME!
HA! HA! ELECTRICAL SHOCKS HAVE NO EFFECT WHATEVER ON ME!
THEN I WILL TAKE YOU ON MYSELF! I'M STILL THE MIGHTIEST OF IMMORTALS! I'LL DEFEAT YOU, IF I MUST, WITH MY BARE HANDS!
THINK AGAIN, MY HELPLESS FOE! MY RADIO-ACTIVE MOLECULES ARE SO ARRANGED THAT IF I WERE SUBJECTED TO ANY SUDDEN PHYSICAL VIOLENCE I WOULD REACH CRITICAL MASS AND THEN... POOF!... I'D BLOW UP LIKE AN H-BOMB AND TAKE THE WHOLE CITY WITH ME!
BY THE GODS! MY HANDS ARE TIED! BUT THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO FIGHT YOU!!
STYMIED, EH? YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT ME! BUT I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE YOU! I'LL SIMPLY USE MY RADIO-ACTIVE POWERS TO PUT YOU INTO A HYPNOTIC-TRANCE! AND SO, THOR, IN JUST ONE SPLIT-SECOND, YOU WILL BECOME... MY SLAVE!
THAT LIGHT!! MY EYES!! OHHH...

YOU CANNOT RESIST MY HYPNOTIC INFLUENCE, THOR! YOU ARE HYPNOTIZED EVEN NOW! IN FACT, YOU NO LONGER KNOW WHO YOU ARE! AM I RIGHT?
YES, MASTER! I DO NOT KNOW WHO I AM!

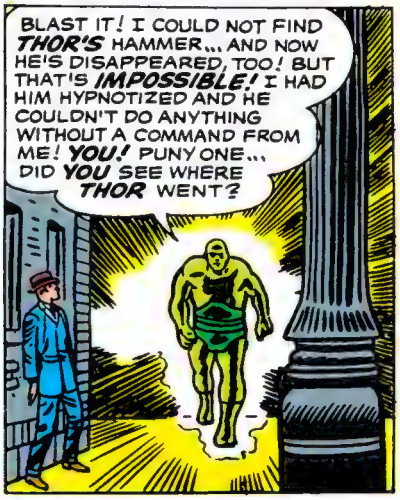

GOOD! NOW TO GET RID OF THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWER! TOSS AWAY YOUR HAMMER, THOR! NOW!!
YES, MASTER!
GREAT GUNS! THOR'S DONE FOR! HE'S THROWN AWAY HIS MIGHTY HAMMER! NOW HE'S AT THAT CHARACTER'S MERCY AND SO ARE WE! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!



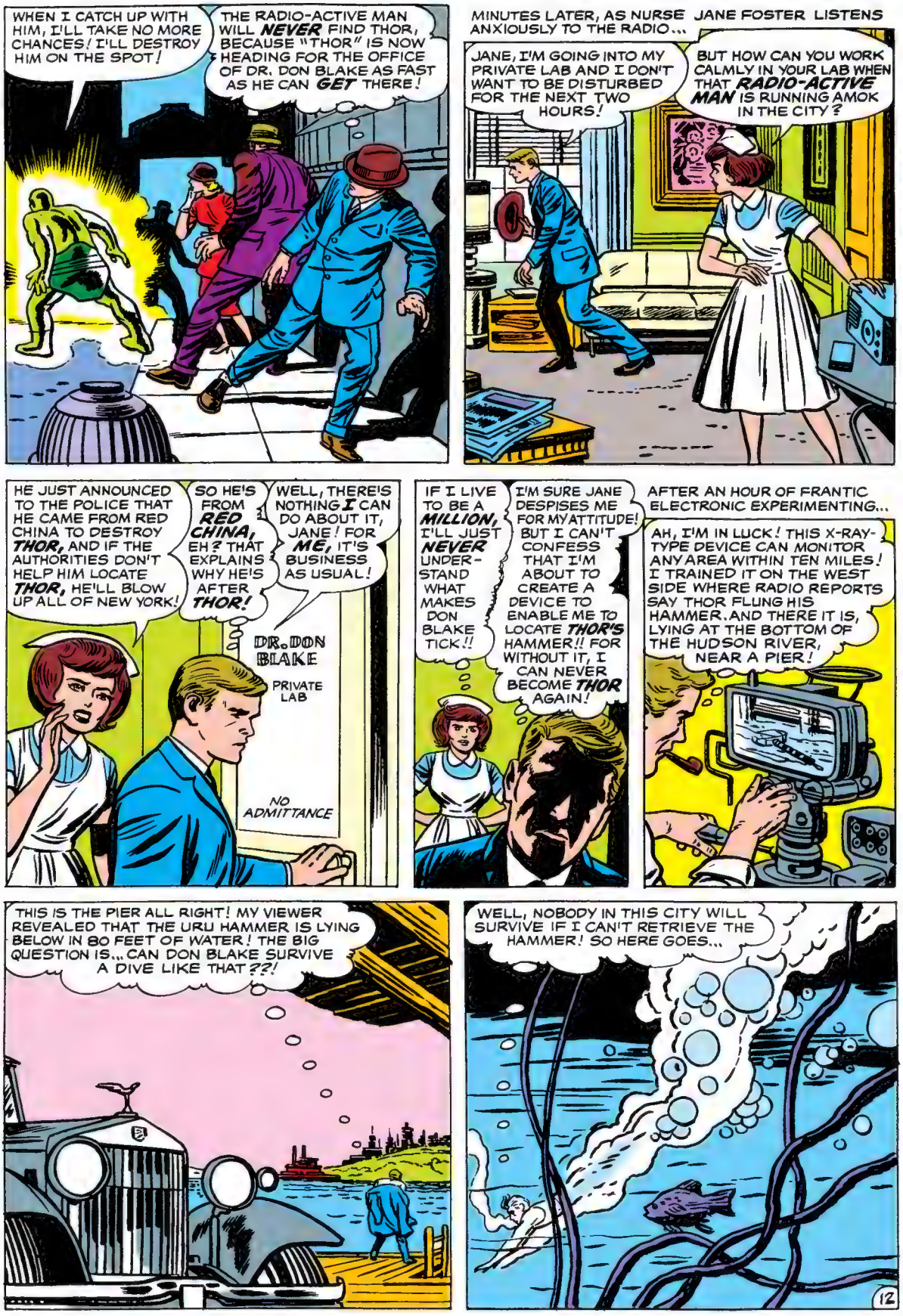
BUT, AS THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN RUNS OFF, LITTLE DOES HE SUSPECT THAT THOR CANNOT BE WITHOUT HIS URU HAMMER FOR MORE THAN SIXTY SECONDS WITHOUT CHANGING BACK TO **DR. DON BLAKE!** AND SO, AS A SINGLE MINUTE PASSES...

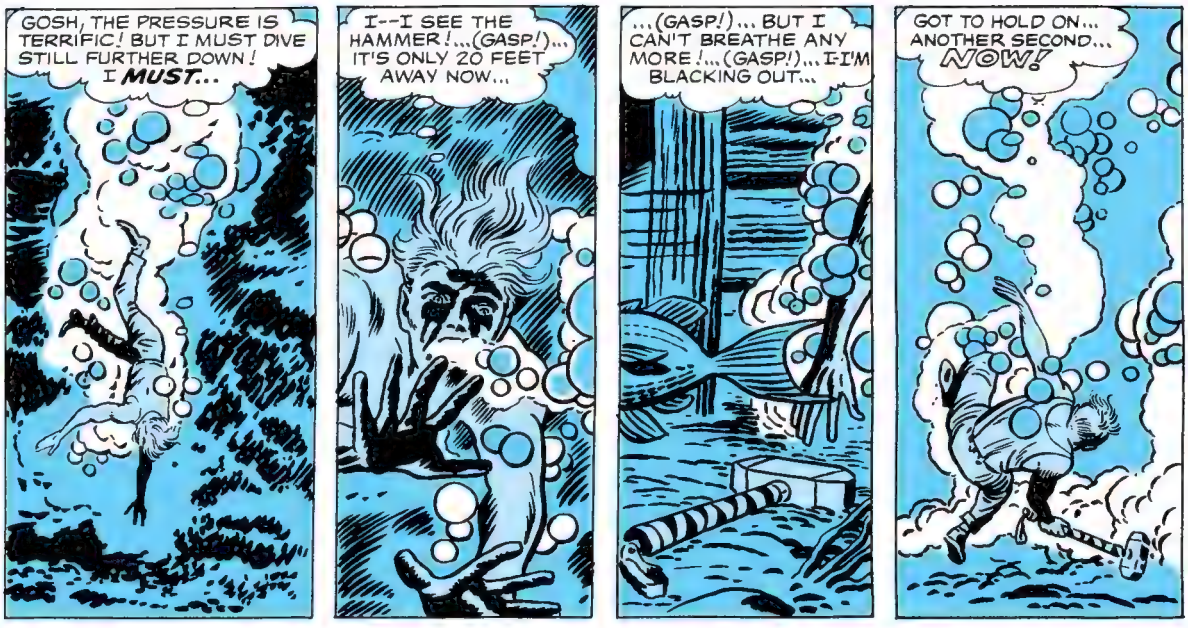

HOLY HYPOS! I-I'VE BECOME DR. BLAKE AGAIN! IT'S A GOOD THING EVERYONE'S FLED IN PANIC, OR ELSE SOMEBODY WOULD HAVE SEEN THOR'S SECRET IDENTITY!

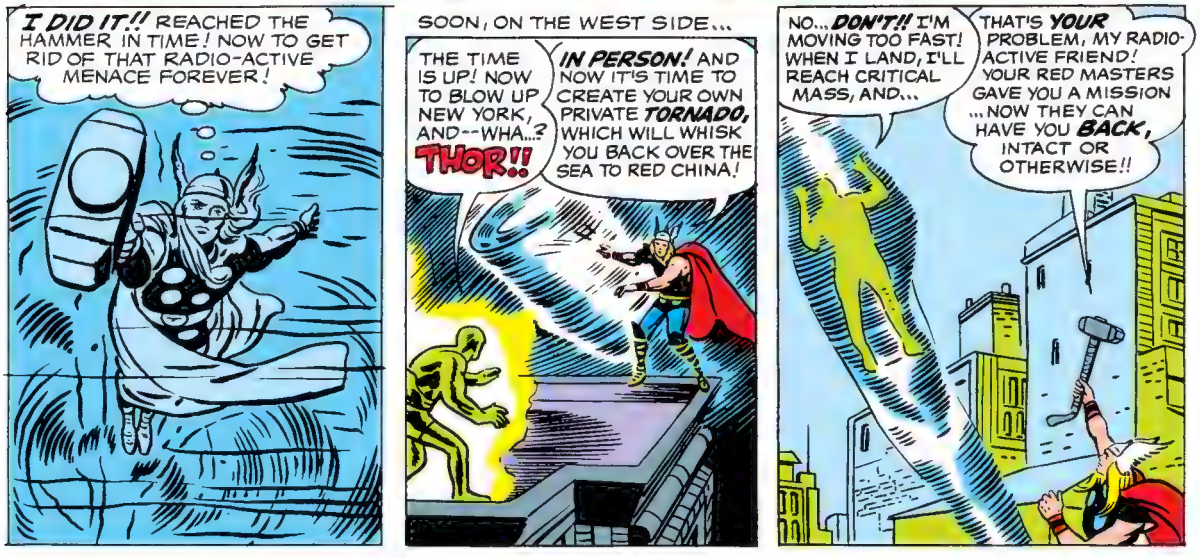
THEN, AS THE ENRAGED **RADIO-ACTIVE** MAN RETURNS...

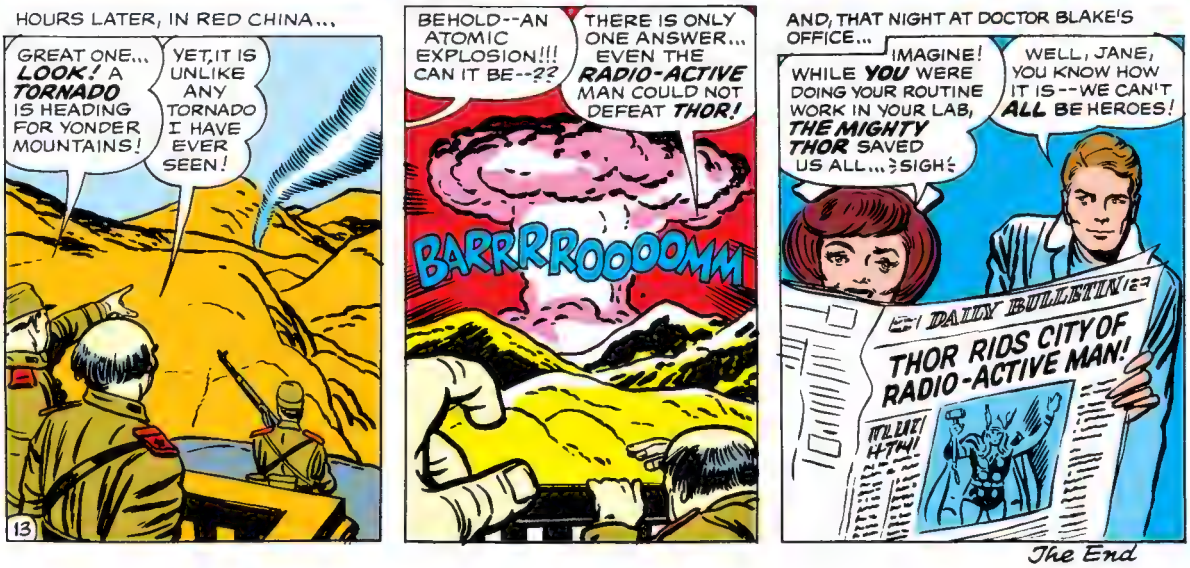

BLAST IT! I COULD NOT FIND THOR'S HAMMER... AND NOW HE'S DISAPPEARED, TOO! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I HAD HIM HYPNOTIZED AND HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT A COMMAND FROM ME! YOU! PUNY ONE... DID YOU SEE WHERE THOR WENT?

ALTHOUGH THOR WAS HYPNOTIZED, DR. BLAKE WAS NOT! NOW THAT I'M BLAKE AGAIN, THE HYPNOTIC SPELL IS BROKEN! BUT THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN CANNOT KNOW THAT! NOW TO THROW HIM OFF THE TRAIL...
WELL, FOOL? SPEAK... OR I'LL DESTROY YOU!


WHEN I CATCH UP WITH HIM, I'LL TAKE NO MORE CHANCES! I'LL DESTROY HIM ON THE SPOT!
THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN WILL NEVER FIND THOR, BECAUSE "THOR" IS NOW HEADING FOR THE OFFICE OF DR. DON BLAKE AS FAST AS HE CAN GET THERE!
MINUTES LATER, AS NURSE JANE FOSTER LISTENS ANXIOUSLY TO THE RADIO...
JANE, I'M GOING INTO MY PRIVATE LAB AND I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED FOR THE NEXT TWO HOURS!
BUT HOW CAN YOU WORK CALMLY IN YOUR LAB WHEN THAT RADIO-ACTIVE MAN IS RUNNING AMOK IN THE CITY?
HE JUST ANNOUNCED TO THE POLICE THAT HE CAME FROM RED CHINA TO DESTROY THOR, AND IF THE AUTHORITIES DON'T HELP HIM LOCATE THOR, HE'LL BLOW UP ALL OF NEW YORK!
SO HE'S FROM RED CHINA, EH? THAT EXPLAINS WHY HE'S AFTER THOR!
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT, JANE! FOR ME, IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL!
DR. DON BLAKE
PRIVATE LAB
NO ADMITTANCE
IF I LIVE TO BE A MILLION, I'LL JUST NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES DON BLAKE TICK!!
I'M SURE JANE DESPISES ME FOR MY ATTITUDE! BUT I CAN'T CONFESS THAT I'M ABOUT TO CREATE A DEVICE TO ENABLE ME TO LOCATE THOR'S HAMMER!! FOR WITHOUT IT, I CAN NEVER BECOME THOR AGAIN!
AFTER AN HOUR OF FRANTIC ELECTRONIC EXPERIMENTING...
AH, I'M IN LUCK! THIS X-RAY-TYPE DEVICE CAN MONITOR ANY AREA WITHIN TEN MILES! I TRAINED IT ON THE WEST SIDE WHERE RADIO REPORTS SAY THOR FLUNG HIS HAMMER. AND THERE IT IS, LYING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HUDSON RIVER, NEAR A PIER!
THIS IS THE PIER ALL RIGHT! MY VIEWER REVEALED THAT THE URU HAMMER IS LYING BELOW IN 80 FEET OF WATER! THE BIG QUESTION IS... CAN DON BLAKE SURVIVE A DIVE LIKE THAT??!
WELL, NOBODY IN THIS CITY WILL SURVIVE IF I CAN'T RETRIEVE THE HAMMER! SO HERE GOES...
12


GOSH, THE PRESSURE IS TERRIFIC! BUT I MUST DIVE STILL FURTHER DOWN! I MUST...
I--I SEE THE HAMMER!...(GASP!)... IT'S ONLY 20 FEET AWAY NOW...
...(GASP!)... BUT I CAN'T BREATHE ANY MORE!...(GASP!)... I-I'M BLACKING OUT...
GOT TO HOLD ON... ANOTHER SECOND... NOW!


I DID IT!! REACHED THE HAMMER IN TIME! NOW TO GET RID OF THAT RADIO-ACTIVE MENACE FOREVER!
SOON, ON THE WEST SIDE...
THE TIME IS UP! NOW TO BLOW UP NEW YORK, AND--WHA...? THOR!!
IN PERSON! AND NOW IT'S TIME TO CREATE YOUR OWN PRIVATE TORNADO, WHICH WILL WHISK YOU BACK OVER THE SEA TO RED CHINA!
NO... DON'T!! I'M MOVING TOO FAST! WHEN I LAND, I'LL REACH CRITICAL MASS, AND...
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, MY RADIO-ACTIVE FRIEND! YOUR RED MASTERS GAVE YOU A MISSION ...NOW THEY CAN HAVE YOU BACK, INTACT OR OTHERWISE!!


HOURS LATER, IN RED CHINA...
GREAT ONE... LOOK! A TORNADO IS HEADING FOR YONDER MOUNTAINS!
YET, IT IS UNLIKE ANY TORNADO I HAVE EVER SEEN!
BEHOLD--AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION!!! CAN IT BE--??
THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER... EVEN THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN COULD NOT DEFEAT THOR!
BARRRROOOOMM
AND, THAT NIGHT AT DOCTOR BLAKE'S OFFICE...
IMAGINE! WHILE YOU WERE DOING YOUR ROUTINE WORK IN YOUR LAB, THE MIGHTY THOR SAVED US ALL...SIGH
WELL, JANE, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS--WE CAN'T ALL BE HEROES!
DAILY BULLETIN
THOR RIDS CITY OF RADIO-ACTIVE MAN!
13

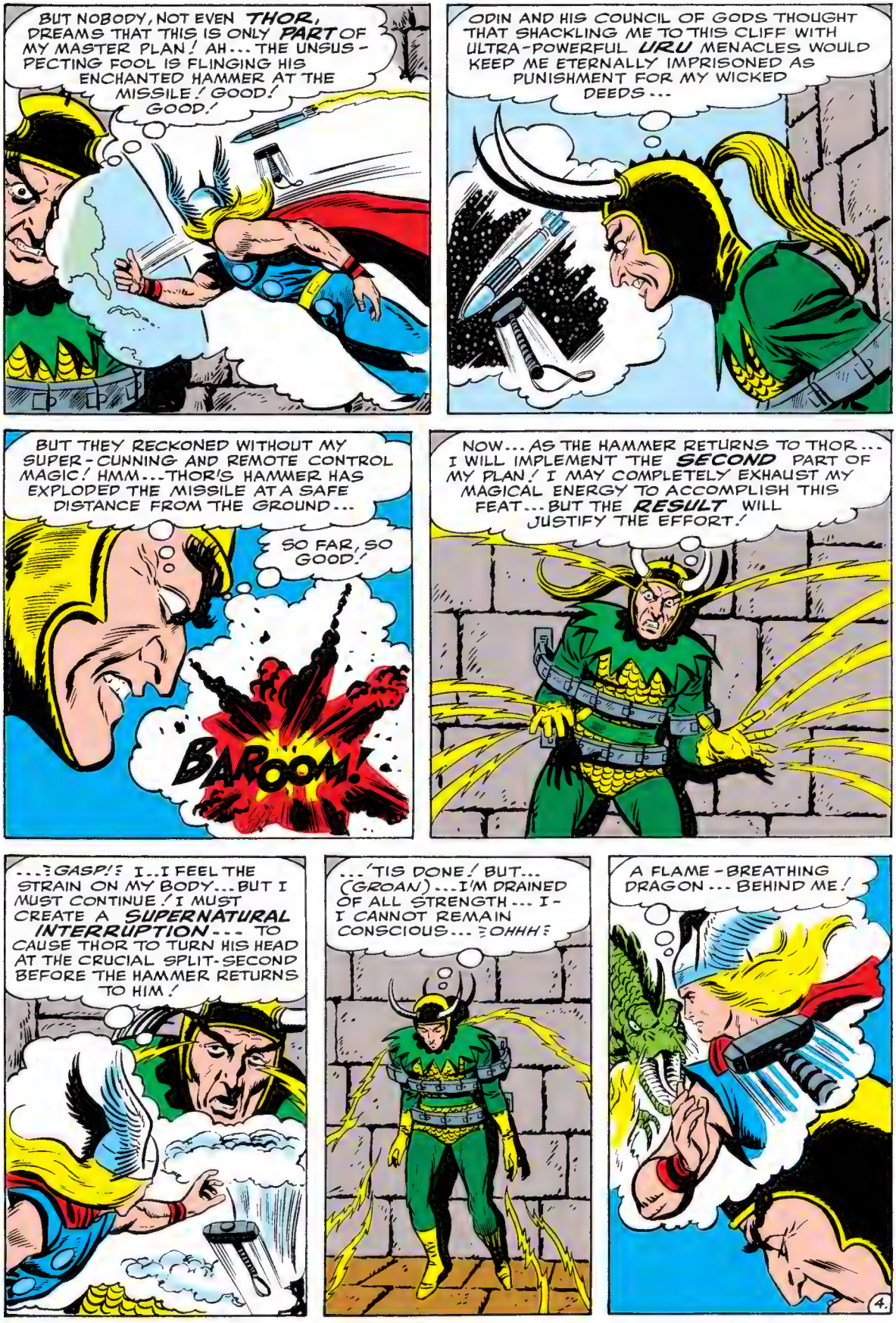
The End

JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
IND.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
94 JULY
ANY MAN WHO LIFTS HIS HAND AGAINST LOKI, WILL HAVE TO BATTLE THOR AS WELL!!!
SEE MIGHTY THOR AND EVIL LOKI UNITE, TO BATTLE THE HUMAN RACE, AS THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP USHERS IN THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!
I'VE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING THOR THINK I'M HIS FRIEND! BUT WHEN HE'S SERVED HIS PURPOSE HE SHALL BE MY NEXT VICTIM!
OOOO

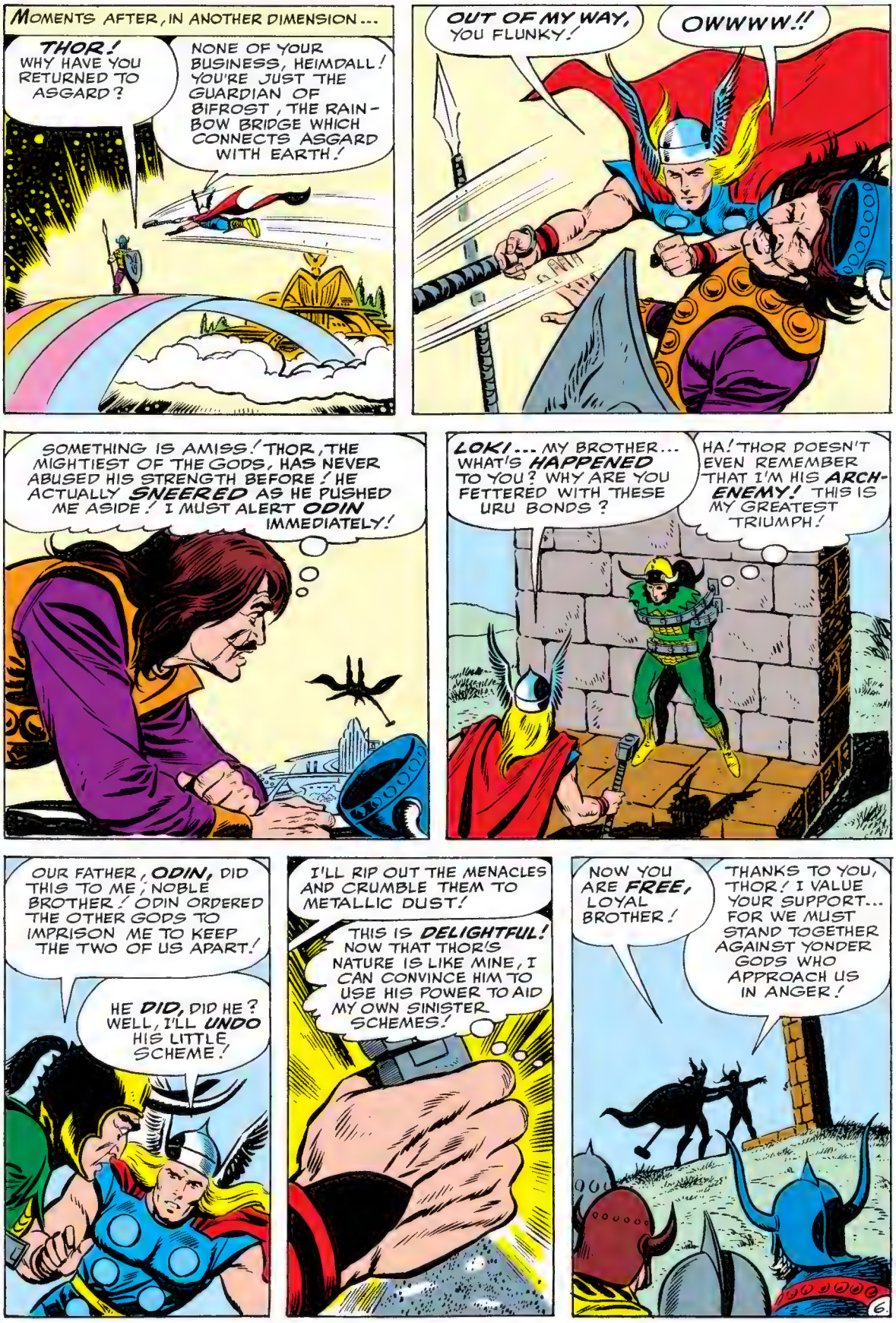
THE MIGHTY THOR!
"THOR AND LOKI ATTACK THE HUMAN RACE!"
LOOK, LOKI! BY A SLIGHT PRESSURE OF MY LITTLE FINGER, I CAN TOPPLE THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THOR IS NO LONGER HUMANITY'S PROTECTOR! HE HAS JOINED FORCES WITH EVIL LOKI TO DESTROY MANKIND!
PLOT:....STAN LEE
SCRIPT:...R. BERNS
ART:.....J. SINNOTT
LETTERING:..S. ROSEN
X-228
1.

ONE MORNING, AT A LARGE U.S. BOMB TESTING SITE IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN...
VOOOOOSHHHH!
WE MUST BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL WITH THIS BABY! THE MISSILE'S CARRYING A NUCLEAR WARHEAD THAT WILL EXPLODE IN SPACE!
SUDDENLY, IN THE CONTROL ROOM...
GENERAL! SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE MISSILE IS CHANGING COURSE! IT'S NOT HEADING AWAY FROM EARTH! IT'S JUST FLYING WILD!
GREAT SCOTT! THEN THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE IT'LL STRIKE OR WHAT DAMAGE IT WILL DO!!
WE MUST GET RID OF IT! PUSH THE DESTRUCT BUTTON!
YES, SIR!
CLICK!
GENERAL!! (GASP)... WE CAN'T DESTROY THE MISSILE!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! EVERY DEVICE IN OUR TESTING PROGRAM IS SET UP SO THAT IT CAN BE DES-TROYED INSTANTLY ON COMMAND!
I KNOW... BUT RIGHT NOW WE HAVE NO CONTROL WHATEVER OVER THAT MISSILE!
WELL, IF OUR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT CAN'T BLOW IT UP WHERE IT'LL DO NO HARM, ONLY ONE PERSON CAN DES-TROY IT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! SEND OUT AN IMMEDIATE S.O.S. FOR MIGHTY THOR!!
AND SO, AN URGENT, WORLD-WIDE MESSAGE IS RADIOED AROUND THE EARTH...
ATTENZIONE, THOR!
ACHTUNG, THOR!
ATTENTION, THOR! NUCLEAR MISSILE FLYING OUT OF CON-TROL! CONTACT PENTAGON AT ONCE!
THOR!
ATTENDEZ, THOR!!
2.

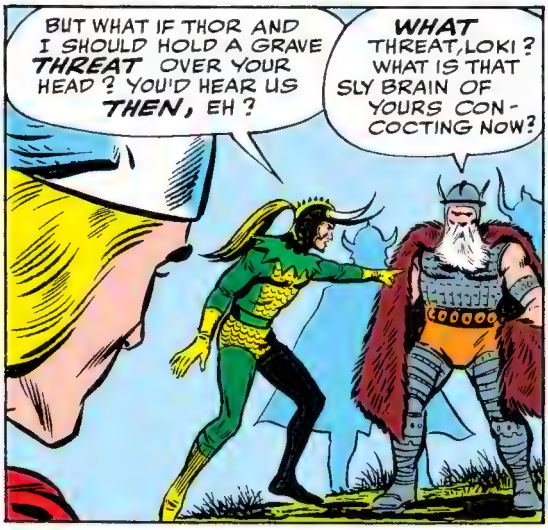
IN HIS MEDICAL OFFICE, AS DR. BLAKE HEARS THE RADIO FLASH ---
CALLING THOR! THOR, YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED DESPERATELY!
IT'S A GOOD THING MY NURSE, JANE FOSTER, IS OFF-DUTY TODAY! I CAN SWITCH TO THOR INSTANTLY!
AS THE LAME PHYSICIAN HOBBLES TO HIS CANE AND STAMPS IT ONCE ON THE FLOOR ---
THOR ... PHONE THE PENTAGON EXTENSION 2715-A ... REPEAT ... EXTENSION 2715-A ...
THUMP!
THUMP!
MOMENTS AFTER, AS THOR CONTACTS THE PROPER AUTHORITIES ---
THANK GOODNESS YOU HEARD OUR DISTRESS CALL, THOR! HERE'S THE EXACT POSITION OF THE RUNAWAY MISSILE ...
DON'T WORRY! I'LL REACH IT BEFORE IT HITS THE GROUND ...
THEN, AS THE MIGHTY NORSE GOD HURLS HIS HAMMER INTO SPACE, GRASPING ITS UNBREAKABLE THONG ---
I'M SPEEDING SO FAST I'M PRACTICALLY INVISIBLE! NOBODY SAW ME LEAVE DR. BLAKE'S OFFICE, NOR CAN ANYONE SPOT ME AS I STREAK SKYWARDS ...
MEANWHILE, IN ASGARD, THE HEAVENLY CITADEL OF THE NORSE GODS, LOKI, GOD OF MISCHIEF, THE ONE WHO CAN SEE THOR, GAZES EARTHWARD AND GLOATS!
EVERYTHING IS WORKING OUT PERFECTLY! IT WAS MY REMOTE CONTROL MAGIC WHICH FIRST TAMPERED WITH THE MISSILE'S COURSE! THEN I SHATTERED THE MISSILE'S AUTOMATIC "DESTRUCT" DEVICE!
I KNEW THAT IF THE DEADLY MISSILE BEGAN TO FLY WILD, BEYOND ANY HUMAN CONTROL, THEY'D HAVE TO CALL UPON THOR TO SAVE THE DAY ... AND HERE HE COMES!
3.

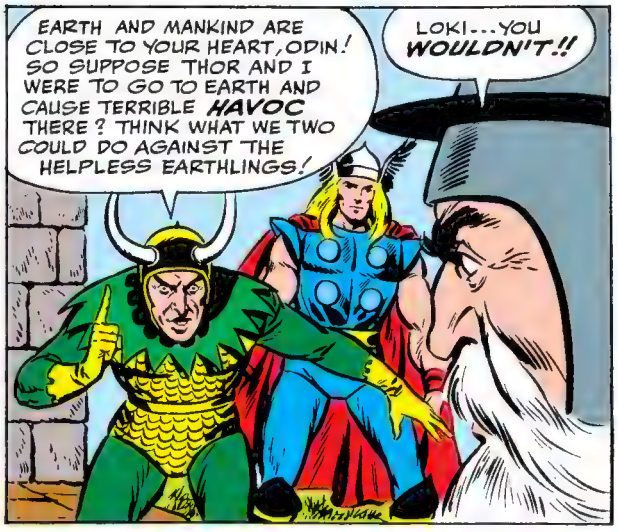

BUT NOBODY, NOT EVEN THOR, DREAMS THAT THIS IS ONLY PART OF MY MASTER PLAN! AH... THE UNSUSPECTING FOOL IS FLINGING HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER AT THE MISSILE! GOOD! GOOD!
ODIN AND HIS COUNCIL OF GODS THOUGHT THAT SHACKLING ME TO THIS CLIFF WITH ULTRA-POWERFUL URU MENACLES WOULD KEEP ME ETERNALLY IMPRISONED AS PUNISHMENT FOR MY WICKED DEEDS...
BUT THEY RECKONED WITHOUT MY SUPER-CUNNING AND REMOTE CONTROL MAGIC! HMM...THOR'S HAMMER HAS EXPLODED THE MISSILE AT A SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE GROUND...
SO FAR, SO GOOD!
BAROOM!
NOW... AS THE HAMMER RETURNS TO THOR... I WILL IMPLEMENT THE SECOND PART OF MY PLAN! I MAY COMPLETELY EXHAUST MY MAGICAL ENERGY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS FEAT... BUT THE RESULT WILL JUSTIFY THE EFFORT!
...GASP! I..I FEEL THE STRAIN ON MY BODY... BUT I MUST CONTINUE! I MUST CREATE A SUPERNATURAL INTERRUPTION... TO CAUSE THOR TO TURN HIS HEAD AT THE CRUCIAL SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE THE HAMMER RETURNS TO HIM!
...'TIS DONE! BUT... (GROAN)...I'M DRAINED OF ALL STRENGTH... I-I CANNOT REMAIN CONSCIOUS... OHHH!
A FLAME-BREATHING DRAGON... BEHIND ME!
4.

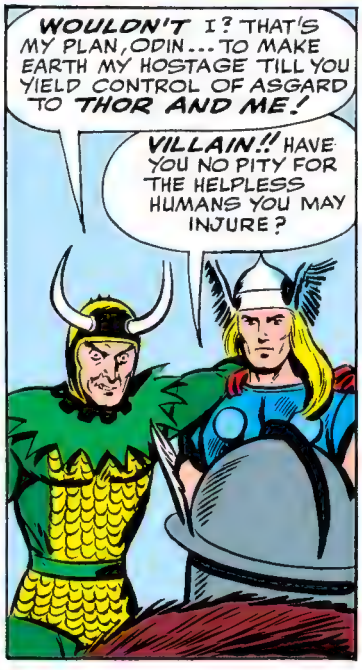
BUT THERE ARE NO DRAGONS ON EARTH IN THIS AGE! WHAT SORCERY CAN THIS BE??
:GASP: IT IS SOME SUPERNATURAL MENACE! I'M STRIKING AN ILLUSION--THAT NOW ASSUMES THE APPEARANCE OF A CLOUD!
I...OWWWWWW!
WHACK!
SIMULTANEOUSLY, ON ASGARD, AS LOKI COMES OUT OF HIS FAINT...
MY DIVERSION WORKED! THOR CLUTCHES HIS HEAD IN AGONY AS HE REACHES OUT FOR THE HAMMER WHICH BOUNCES OFF HIS HELMET!
THAT MEANS I TIMED THE INCIDENT SO PERFECTLY THAT THE HAMMER HIT HIS CHROMOSOMATIC GLAND, WHICH DETERMINES AND CHANGES PERSONALITY!
I'LL SOON SEE WHETHER THOR'S NATURE HAS CHANGED FROM GOOD TO BAD, DUE TO THE BLOW ON HIS HEAD! I'LL CONTACT HIM MENTALLY...
AH! THOR HAS UNDERGONE A TOTAL CHANGE OF PERSONALITY! HE'S OBEYING THE IDEA I'VE PUT INTO HIS HEAD TO FLY TO ASGARD AND RESCUE ME!
5.


MOMENTS AFTER, IN ANOTHER DIMENSION...
THOR! WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED TO ASGARD?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, HEIMDALL! YOU'RE JUST THE GUARDIAN OF BIFROST, THE RAINBOW BRIDGE WHICH CONNECTS ASGARD WITH EARTH!
OUT OF MY WAY, YOU FLUNKY!
OWWWW!!
SOMETHING IS AMISS! THOR, THE MIGHTIEST OF THE GODS, HAS NEVER ABUSED HIS STRENGTH BEFORE! HE ACTUALLY SNEERED AS HE PUSHED ME ASIDE! I MUST ALERT ODIN IMMEDIATELY!
LOKI... MY BROTHER... WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? WHY ARE YOU FETTERED WITH THESE URU BONDS?
HA! THOR DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER THAT I'M HIS ARCH-ENEMY! THIS IS MY GREATEST TRIUMPH!
OUR FATHER, ODIN, DID THIS TO ME, NOBLE BROTHER! ODIN ORDERED THE OTHER GODS TO IMPRISON ME TO KEEP THE TWO OF US APART!
HE DID, DID HE? WELL, I'LL UNDO HIS LITTLE SCHEME!
I'LL RIP OUT THE MENACLES AND CRUMBLE THEM TO METALLIC DUST!
THIS IS DELIGHTFUL! NOW THAT THOR'S NATURE IS LIKE MINE, I CAN CONVINCE HIM TO USE HIS POWER TO AID MY OWN SINISTER SCHEMES!
NOW YOU ARE FREE, LOYAL BROTHER!
THANKS TO YOU, THOR! I VALUE YOUR SUPPORT... FOR WE MUST STAND TOGETHER AGAINST YONDER GODS WHO APPROACH US IN ANGER!
6.

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND, THOR? HOW COULD YOU, OF ALL PERSONS, FREE LOKI, THE EVIL ONE?
SILENCE, ODIN! SPEAK NOT AGAINST MY BROTHER, LOKI! I RESENT YOUR CHAINING HIM HERE LIKE SOME WILD BEAST!
DARE I BELIEVE MY EARS? IT WAS YOU YOURSELF WHO FORGED THE URU BONDS WHICH IMPRISONED LOKI!
NEVER, ODIN! I WOULD NEVER HARM THE LOYAL LOKI!
NO, THOR.. BUT ODIN AND HIS BOOT-LICKING COUNCIL OF YES-MEN WOULD HARM US!
THEY FEAR THAT OUR COMBINED POWERS COULD TAKE OVER ASGARD ITSELF AND WREST SUPREME CONTROL FROM ODIN! AND THAT'S WHY THEY SEEK TO DIVIDE US!
SO, YOU'RE UP TO YOUR OLD TRICKS, EH, LOKI? AND YOU'VE MANAGED TO DUPE MIGHTY THOR INTO JOINING YOU?
YOUR NATURE THRIVES ON CONFLICT AND CRISES! THUS YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE FOREVER TRYING TO CAUSE TROUBLE! SOMEHOW YOU'VE USED YOUR MAGIC POWERS TO CHANGE THOR'S PERSONALITY...FOR NORMALLY HE WOULD NEVER SIDE WITH HIS AGE-OLD ENEMY!
WHAT IS YOUR SCHEMING MIND UP TO THIS TIME? WHY HAVE YOU BEWITCHED THOR INTO THINKING AS YOU DO?
THOR...HELP! DO NOT LET ODIN PRY MY PLANS FROM ME!
NONE MAY RAISE A HAND TO LOKI WHILE THOR LIVES!
ODIN! FOR THIS THOR SHALL...
NO! STAY.. BACK! THOR IS BEWITCHED! HE KNOWS NOT WHAT HE DOES!
HA! YOU KNOW THAT EVEN YOUR STRENGTH CANNOT MATCH MIGHTY THOR'S!
NOW...THOR AND I INTEND TO RULE ASGARD ...BUT, WE REALIZE THAT SINCE WE ARE EACH POWERFUL IN DIFFERENT WAYS WE MAY NOT BE STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ALL OF YOUR LOYAL GODS! ANY STRUGGLE WOULD END IN A STALEMATE ... BUT...
7.

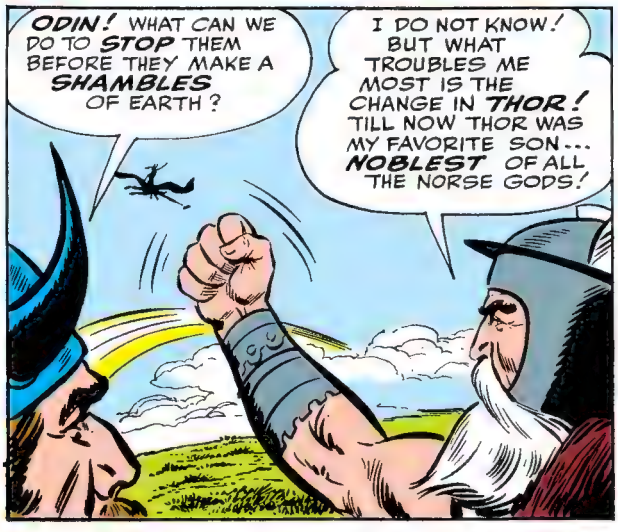

BUT WHAT IF THOR AND I SHOULD HOLD A GRAVE THREAT OVER YOUR HEAD? YOU'D HEAR US THEN, EH?
WHAT THREAT, LOKI? WHAT IS THAT SLY BRAIN OF YOURS CONCOCTING NOW?


EARTH AND MANKIND ARE CLOSE TO YOUR HEART, ODIN! SO SUPPOSE THOR AND I WERE TO GO TO EARTH AND CAUSE TERRIBLE HAVOC THERE? THINK WHAT WE TWO COULD DO AGAINST THE HELPLESS EARTHLINGS!
LOKI...YOU WOULDN'T!!

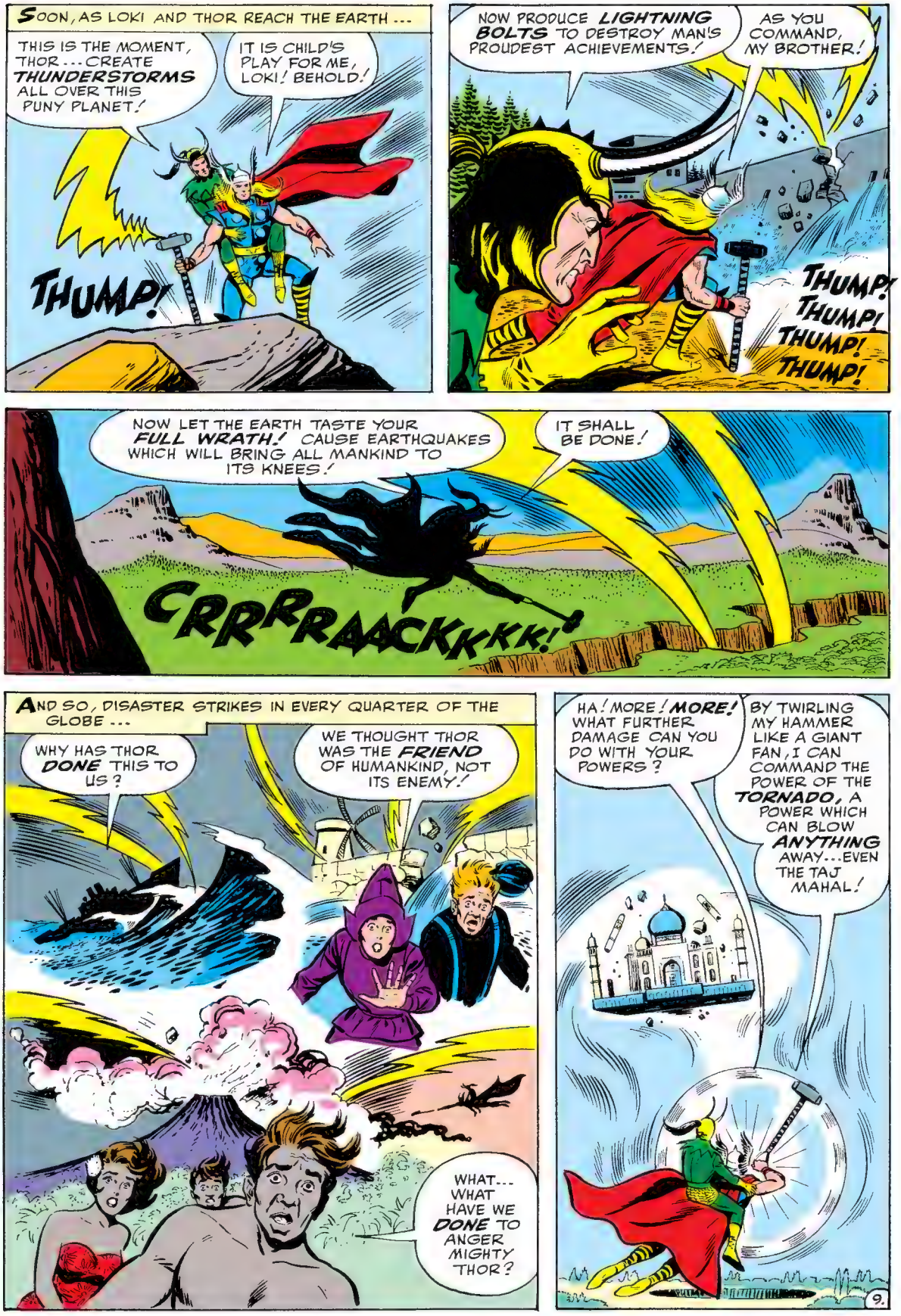

WOULDN'T I? THAT'S MY PLAN, ODIN... TO MAKE EARTH MY HOSTAGE TILL YOU YIELD CONTROL OF ASGARD TO THOR AND ME!
VILLAIN!! HAVE YOU NO PITY FOR THE HELPLESS HUMANS YOU MAY INJURE?

AND YOU, THOR, WHO SPENT MOST OF YOUR LIFE ON EARTH... HOW CAN YOU LEND YOURSELF TO LOKI'S SINISTER SCHEMES?
WHATEVER LOKI WANTS, I WANT, FOR HE IS MY BROTHER!

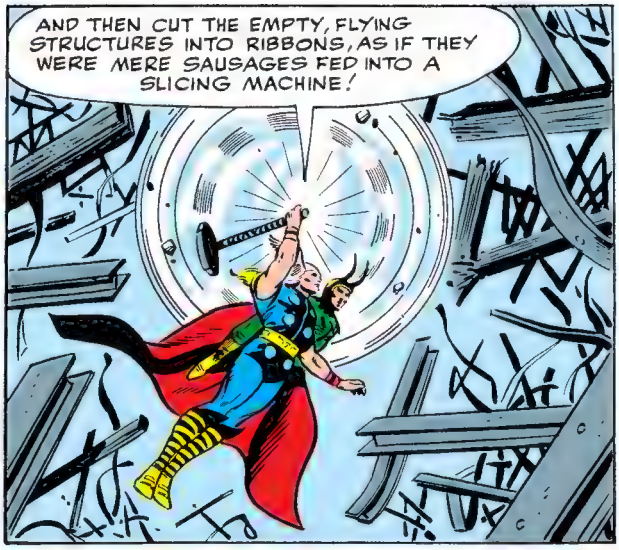
ENOUGH TALK! YOU KNOW OUR TERMS, ODIN! IF YOU WANT TO SAVE THE HUMAN RACE, SURRENDER ASGARD TO US!
COME, LOKI! HOLD TIGHT TO MY WAIST WHILE MY INVINCIBLE HAMMER TRANSPORTS US TO THE MORTAL WORLD!


ODIN! WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY MAKE A SHAMBLES OF EARTH?
I DO NOT KNOW! BUT WHAT TROUBLES ME MOST IS THE CHANGE IN THOR! TILL NOW THOR WAS MY FAVORITE SON... NOBLEST OF ALL THE NORSE GODS!

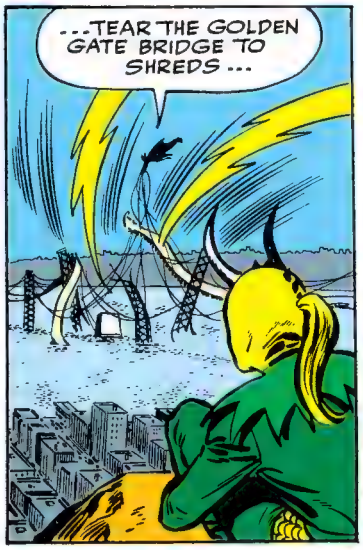
NOW HIS NATURE HAS BECOME THE OPPOSITE OF HIS FORMER SELF... UNDOUBTEDLY BECAUSE OF SOME OF LOKI'S EVIL MAGIC! BUT HOW COULD LOKI HAVE WROUGHT SUCH A TERRIBLE CHANGE?? I MUST PONDER...

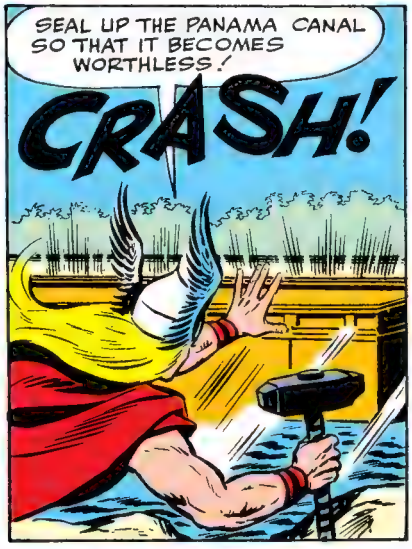

SOON, AS LOKI AND THOR REACH THE EARTH ...
THIS IS THE MOMENT, THOR ... CREATE THUNDERSTORMS ALL OVER THIS PUNY PLANET!
IT IS CHILD'S PLAY FOR ME, LOKI! BEHOLD!
THUMP!
NOW PRODUCE LIGHTNING BOLTS TO DESTROY MAN'S PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENTS!
AS YOU COMMAND, MY BROTHER!
THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!
NOW LET THE EARTH TASTE YOUR FULL WRATH! CAUSE EARTHQUAKES WHICH WILL BRING ALL MANKIND TO ITS KNEES!
IT SHALL BE DONE!
CRRRRAACKKKK!
AND SO, DISASTER STRIKES IN EVERY QUARTER OF THE GLOBE ...
WHY HAS THOR DONE THIS TO US?
WE THOUGHT THOR WAS THE FRIEND OF HUMANKIND, NOT ITS ENEMY!
WHAT... WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO ANGER MIGHTY THOR?
HA! MORE! MORE! WHAT FURTHER DAMAGE CAN YOU DO WITH YOUR POWERS?
BY TWIRLING MY HAMMER LIKE A GIANT FAN, I CAN COMMAND THE POWER OF THE TORNADO, A POWER WHICH CAN BLOW ANYTHING AWAY... EVEN THE TAJ MAHAL!
9.

I CAN CREATE ENOUGH SUCTION TO WHISK FAMOUS LANDMARKS ... LIKE THE EIFFEL TOWER ... INTO THE ATMOSPHERE ...

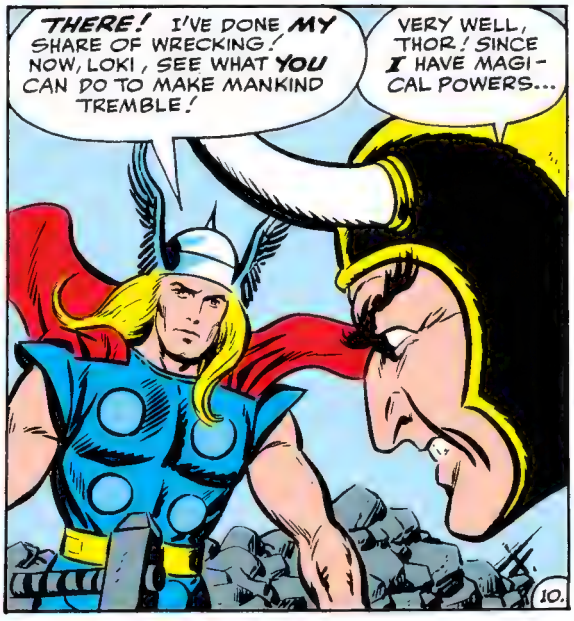

AND THEN CUT THE EMPTY, FLYING STRUCTURES INTO RIBBONS, AS IF THEY WERE MERE SAUSAGES FED INTO A SLICING MACHINE!

WITH THIS CRUSHING POWER OF MY URU HAMMER I CAN GRIND THE PROUDEST STONE PYRAMID INTO A PILE OF RUBBLE!


... TEAR THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE TO SHREDS ...

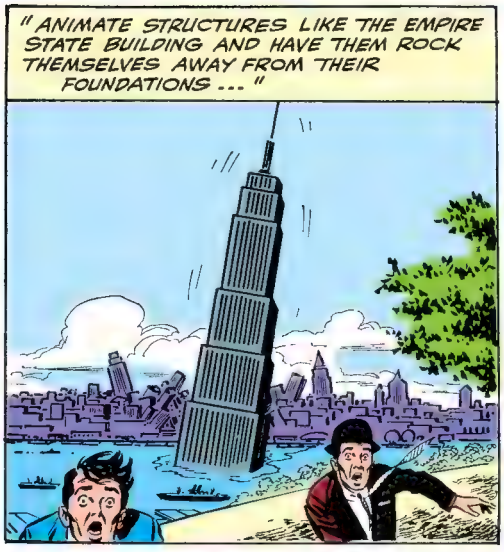

SEAL UP THE PANAMA CANAL SO THAT IT BECOMES WORTHLESS!
CRASH!

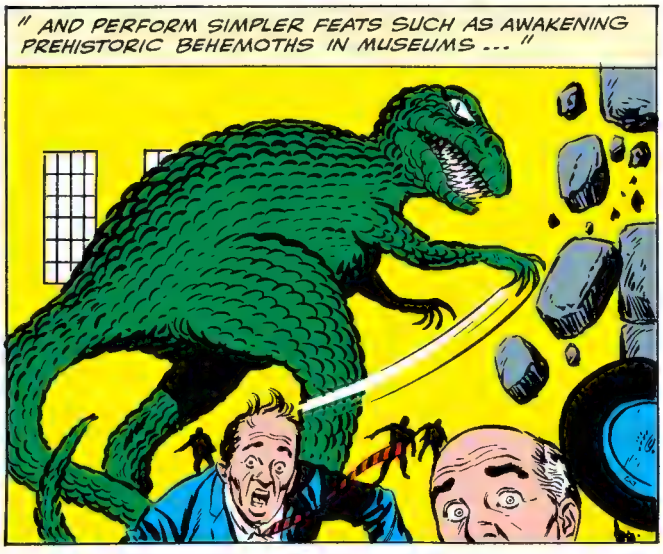
... AND, BY THE MERE PRESSURE OF A FINGER ... PUSH OVER THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA!
KKKRRAAK!

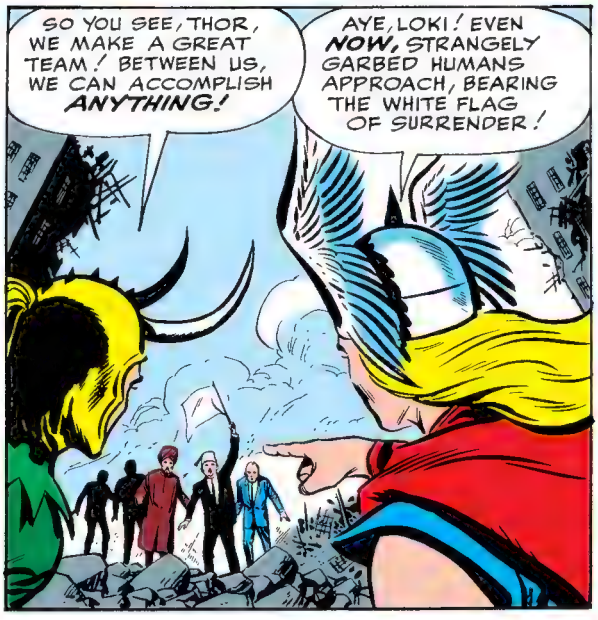

THERE! I'VE DONE MY SHARE OF WRECKING! NOW, LOKI, SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE MANKIND TREMBLE!
VERY WELL, THOR! SINCE I HAVE MAGICAL POWERS...

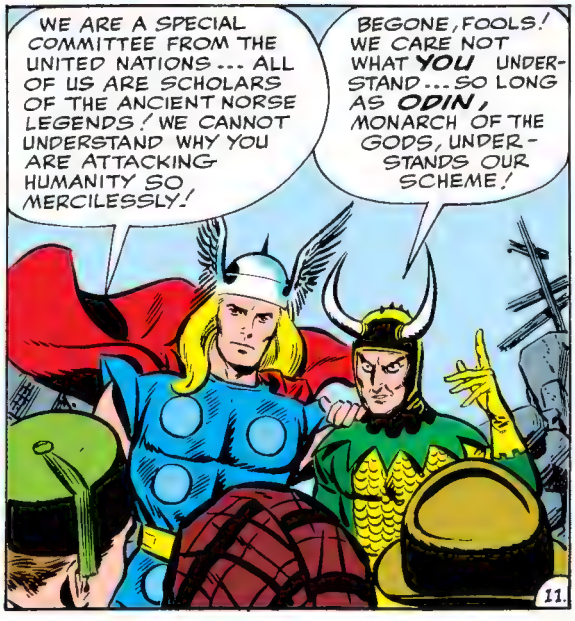
I CAN CONJURE UP ALL SORTS OF ILLUSIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS! FOR EXAMPLE, I CAN TURN AN ORDINARY WHALE INTO A FEARFUL SEA SERPENT!

"BRING THE SPHINX TO A SEMBLANCE OF LIFE AND MAKE IT GALLOP THROUGH THE STREETS OF CAIRO!"

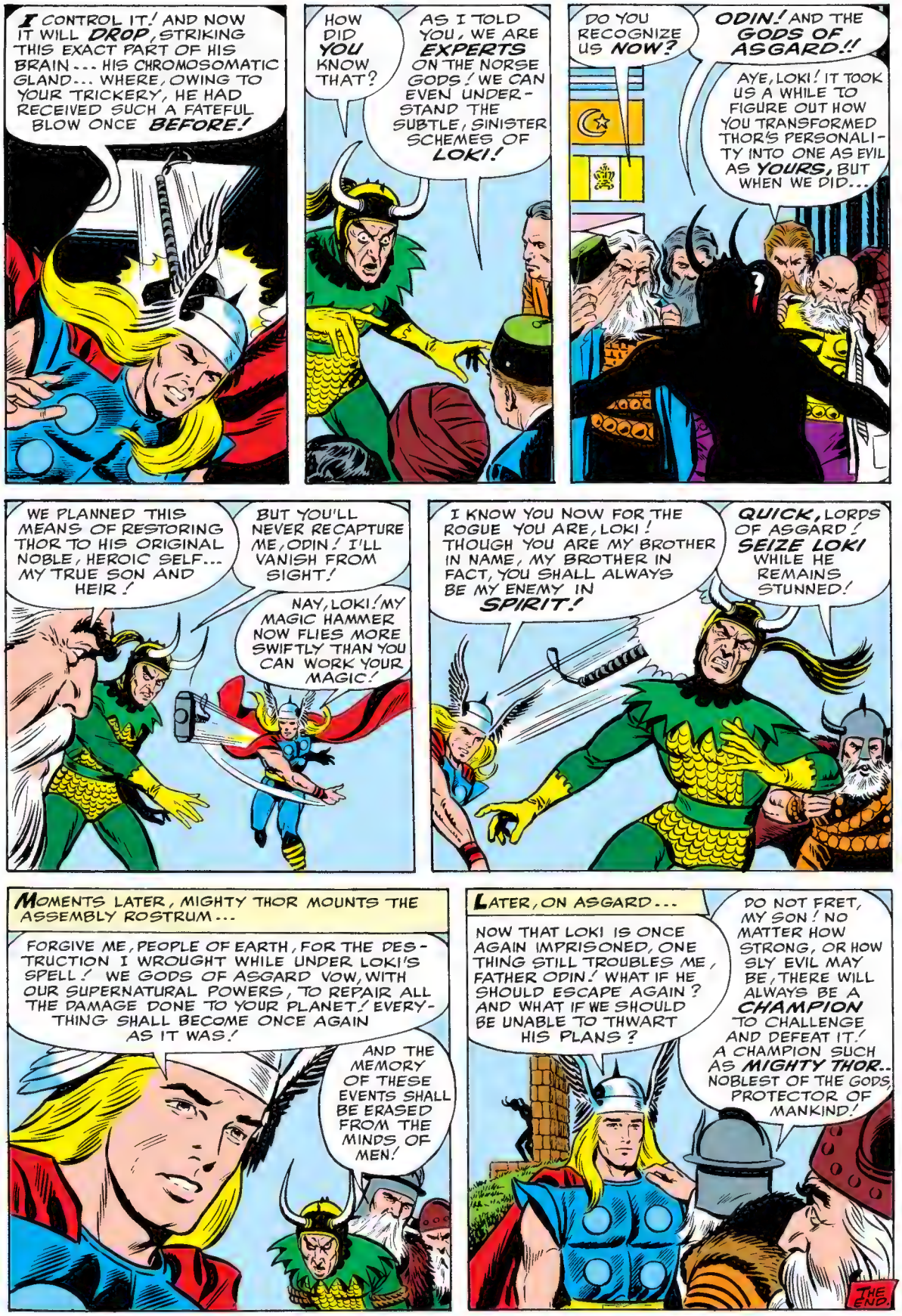

"ANIMATE STRUCTURES LIKE THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING AND HAVE THEM ROCK THEMSELVES AWAY FROM THEIR FOUNDATIONS ..."


"AND PERFORM SIMPLER FEATS SUCH AS AWAKENING PREHISTORIC BEHEMOTHS IN MUSEUMS ..."

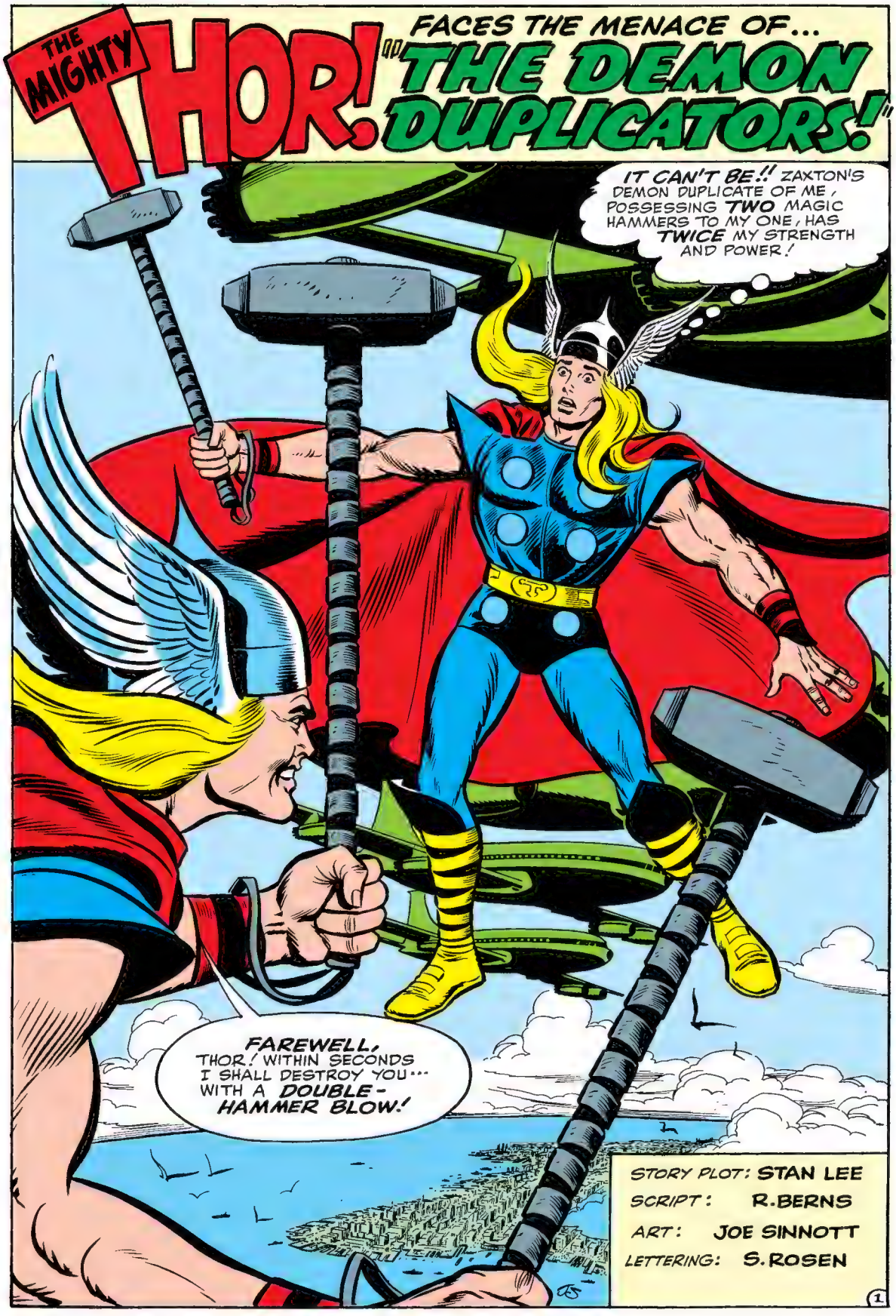

SO YOU SEE, THOR, WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM! BETWEEN US, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING!
AYE, LOKI! EVEN NOW, STRANGELY GARBED HUMANS APPROACH, BEARING THE WHITE FLAG OF SURRENDER!


WE ARE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS ... ALL OF US ARE SCHOLARS OF THE ANCIENT NORSE LEGENDS! WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE ATTACKING HUMANITY SO MERCILESSLY!
BEGONE, FOOLS! WE CARE NOT WHAT YOU UNDERSTAND ... SO LONG AS ODIN, MONARCH OF THE GODS, UNDERSTANDS OUR SCHEME!

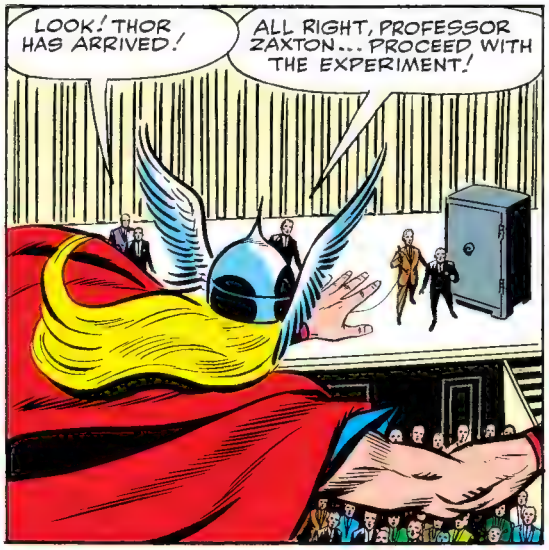
WE WILL CONTINUE TO BLACKMAIL ODIN BY WREAKING HAVOC ON EARTH TILL HE YIELDS CONTROL OF ASGARD TO THE TWO OF US!
THEN LET US TRY TO INTERCEDE WITH ODIN.. FOR OUR PLANET CANNOT LONG ENDURE YOUR ASSAULT!
COME TO OUR U.N. BUILDING, HOME OF ALL EARTH NATIONS, AND HEAR US REQUEST ODIN TO SURRENDER TO YOU!
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, EH, THOR? SENTIMENTAL ODIN WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST MANKIND'S DESPERATE APPEAL FOR HIM TO SAVE THEIR PUNY PLANET!
VERY WELL, MORTAL! WE'LL OBSERVE THE OUTCOME OF YOUR MESSAGE TO ODIN!
WE THANK YOU! THE U.N. ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS SOLEMN OCCASION! FOLLOW US, PLEASE!
AND SO...
NOW TELL US, THOR, HOW CAN WE CONTACT THE OMNIPOTENT ODIN?
ONLY AN IMMORTAL CAN SUMMON THE KING OF THE GODS! IT WILL REQUIRE A SIGNAL... AND THE MOST FITTING SIGNAL OF ALL WILL BE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE U.N. EMBLEM WHICH STANDS BEHIND ME!
THEN, AS THOR HURLS HIS AWESOME HAMMER...
PWANNGG!
SWOOSH!
...A TRAPDOOR SUDDENLY OPENS BENEATH HIS FEET AND...
OHH...
WHAT DEVILTRY IS THIS? THOR HAS BEEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE! HIS HAMMER RETURNS, BUT HE CANNOT CATCH IT!
NOW THE HAMMER HOVERS OVER THE PLACE WHERE THOR HAS FALLEN! BUT HOW? WHY? WHO IS CONTROLLING IT??
12.

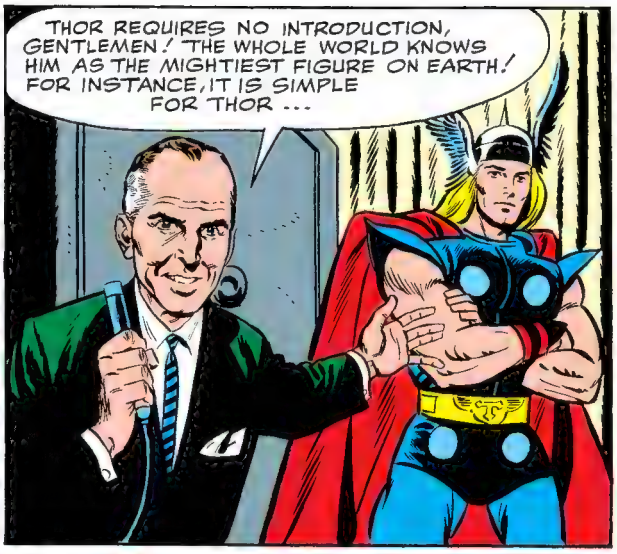

I CONTROL IT! AND NOW IT WILL DROP, STRIKING THIS EXACT PART OF HIS BRAIN... HIS CHROMOSOMATIC GLAND... WHERE, OWING TO YOUR TRICKERY, HE HAD RECEIVED SUCH A FATEFUL BLOW ONCE BEFORE!
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
AS I TOLD YOU, WE ARE EXPERTS ON THE NORSE GODS! WE CAN EVEN UNDERSTAND THE SUBTLE, SINISTER SCHEMES OF LOKI!
DO YOU RECOGNIZE US NOW?
ODIN! AND THE GODS OF ASGARD!!
AYE, LOKI! IT TOOK US A WHILE TO FIGURE OUT HOW YOU TRANSFORMED THOR'S PERSONALITY INTO ONE AS EVIL AS YOURS, BUT WHEN WE DID...
WE PLANNED THIS MEANS OF RESTORING THOR TO HIS ORIGINAL NOBLE, HEROIC SELF... MY TRUE SON AND HEIR!
BUT YOU'LL NEVER RECAPTURE ME, ODIN! I'LL VANISH FROM SIGHT!
NAY, LOKI! MY MAGIC HAMMER NOW FLIES MORE SWIFTLY THAN YOU CAN WORK YOUR MAGIC!
I KNOW YOU NOW FOR THE ROGUE YOU ARE, LOKI! THOUGH YOU ARE MY BROTHER IN NAME, MY BROTHER IN FACT, YOU SHALL ALWAYS BE MY ENEMY IN SPIRIT!
QUICK, LORDS OF ASGARD! SEIZE LOKI WHILE HE REMAINS STUNNED!
MOMENTS LATER, MIGHTY THOR MOUNTS THE ASSEMBLY ROSTRUM...
FORGIVE ME, PEOPLE OF EARTH, FOR THE DESTRUCTION I WROUGHT WHILE UNDER LOKI'S SPELL! WE GODS OF ASGARD VOW, WITH OUR SUPERNATURAL POWERS, TO REPAIR ALL THE DAMAGE DONE TO YOUR PLANET! EVERYTHING SHALL BECOME ONCE AGAIN AS IT WAS!
AND THE MEMORY OF THESE EVENTS SHALL BE ERASED FROM THE MINDS OF MEN!
LATER, ON ASGARD...
NOW THAT LOKI IS ONCE AGAIN IMPRISONED, ONE THING STILL TROUBLES ME, FATHER ODIN! WHAT IF HE SHOULD ESCAPE AGAIN? AND WHAT IF WE SHOULD BE UNABLE TO THWART HIS PLANS?
DO NOT FRET, MY SON! NO MATTER HOW STRONG, OR HOW SLY EVIL MAY BE, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A CHAMPION TO CHALLENGE AND DEFEAT IT! A CHAMPION SUCH AS MIGHTY THOR.. NOBLEST OF THE GODS, PROTECTOR OF MANKIND!
THE END.

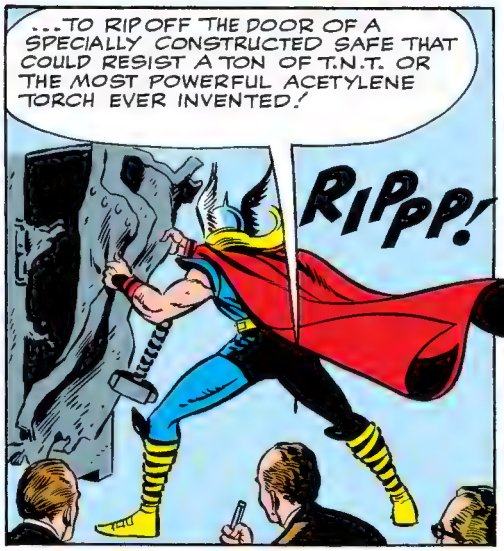
JOURNEY INTO
IND.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MYSTERY
95
AUG.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
STARRING: MIGHTY THOR!
YOU HAVE FINALLY MET THE ONE ENEMY YOU CAN NEVER DEFEAT, THOR! YOU HAVE MET...
...A FAR MORE POWERFUL DUPLICATE OF --YOURSELF!

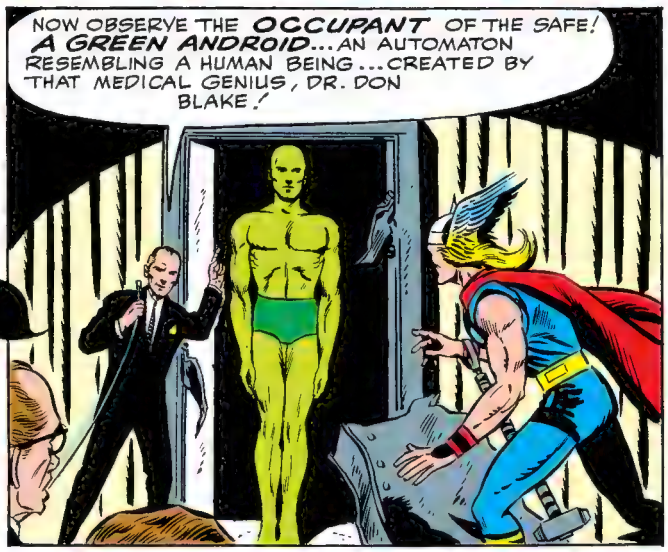

THE MIGHTY THOR!
FACES THE MENACE OF...
"THE DEMON DUPLICATORS!"
IT CAN'T BE!! ZAXTON'S DEMON DUPLICATE OF ME, POSSESSING TWO MAGIC HAMMERS TO MY ONE, HAS TWICE MY STRENGTH AND POWER!
FAREWELL, THOR! WITHIN SECONDS I SHALL DESTROY YOU... WITH A DOUBLE-HAMMER BLOW!
STORY PLOT: STAN LEE
SCRIPT: R. BERNS
ART: JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING: S. ROSEN
1

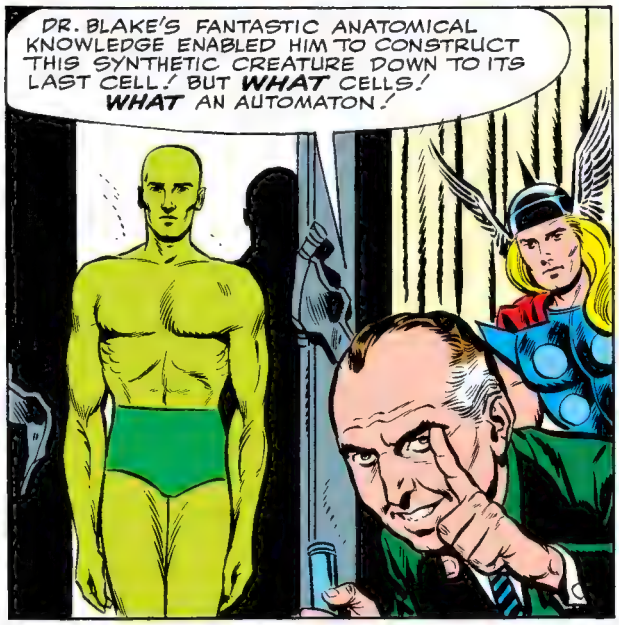
OUR TALE BEGINS AS THOR IS SUMMONED BY LORD ODIN TO ASGARD, HOME OF THE NORSE GODS...
IT IS GOOD TO SEE MY FATHER AND ALL MY DEAR FRIENDS AGAIN!
WE SENT FOR YOU, NOBLE SON, BECAUSE WE SORELY NEED YOUR HELP!
A TERRIBLE DROUGHT HAS AFFLICTED ASGARD! OUR LAND IS PARCHED... CROPS, PLANTS AND FLOWERS HAVE WITHERED! OUR WATER SUPPLY HAS VANISHED! WE MUST HAVE RAIN, THOR... TORRENTS OF IT!
THEN RAIN YOU SHALL HAVE, ODIN! TO CREATE A THUNDERSTORM, I NEED BUT STAMP MY ENCHANTED HAMMER TWICE ON THE GROUND!
THUD!
THUD!
WE ARE GRATEFUL, MY SON! HOW LONG WILL THIS THUNDER-STORM LAST?
FOR A FULL SEVEN DAYS, FATHER! AT THE END OF THE WEEK, I'LL RETURN TO ASGARD, STAMP MY HAMMER THREE TIMES AND THE STORM WILL END!
NOW I MUST RETURN TO EARTH TO AID A HUMAN SCIENTIST WITH A VITAL EXPERIMENT!
FAREWELL, MY SON! MAY YOUR DEEDS BRING AS MUCH BENEFIT TO THE HUMANS AS YOU HAVE TODAY BROUGHT TO ASGARD!
AND SO, AS MIGHTY THOR HURLS HIS HAMMER, AND HANGS ON TO IT...
FAITHFUL HEIMDALL, GUARDIAN OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE WHICH CONNECTS EARTH WITH ASGARD, IS WAVING GOODBYE! IF I WERE NOT SO USED TO MANKIND, I WOULD GLADLY DWELL IN THIS DIMENSION FOREVER!
I'LL HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE SCIENTISTS' CONVENTION WHERE PROFESSOR ZAXTON IS SCHEDULED TO DEMONSTRATE THE STRANGE ANDROID WHICH MY OTHER IDENTITY, DR. DON BLAKE, INVENTED!
2.

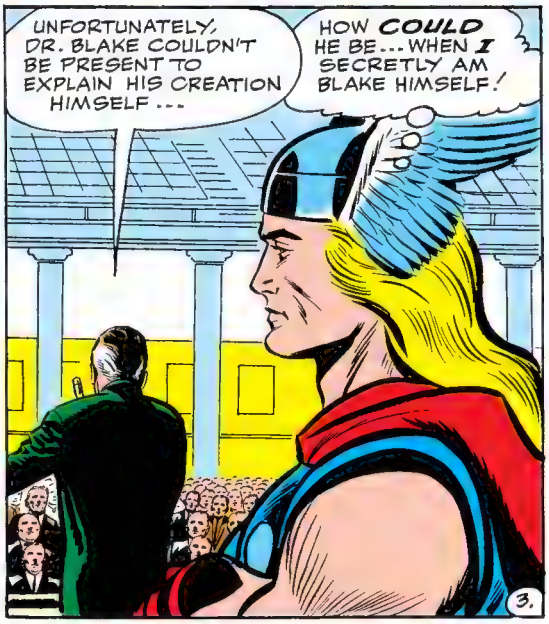

LOOK! THOR HAS ARRIVED!
ALL RIGHT, PROFESSOR ZAXTON... PROCEED WITH THE EXPERIMENT!


THOR REQUIRES NO INTRODUCTION, GENTLEMEN! THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS HIM AS THE MIGHTIEST FIGURE ON EARTH! FOR INSTANCE, IT IS SIMPLE FOR THOR ...


...TO RIP OFF THE DOOR OF A SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED SAFE THAT COULD RESIST A TON OF T.N.T. OR THE MOST POWERFUL ACETYLENE TORCH EVER INVENTED!
RIPPP!

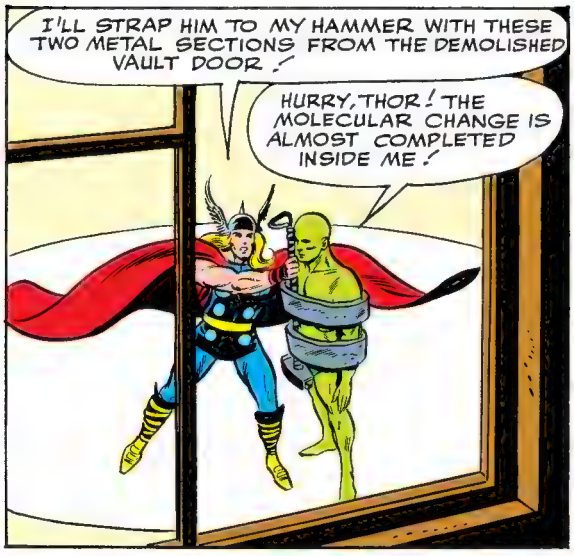

NOW OBSERVE THE OCCUPANT OF THE SAFE! A GREEN ANDROID... AN AUTOMATON RESEMBLING A HUMAN BEING... CREATED BY THAT MEDICAL GENIUS, DR. DON BLAKE!


DR. BLAKE'S FANTASTIC ANATOMICAL KNOWLEDGE ENABLED HIM TO CONSTRUCT THIS SYNTHETIC CREATURE DOWN TO ITS LAST CELL! BUT WHAT CELLS! WHAT AN AUTOMATON!


UNFORTUNATELY, DR. BLAKE COULDN'T BE PRESENT TO EXPLAIN HIS CREATION HIMSELF ...
HOW COULD HE BE... WHEN I SECRETLY AM BLAKE HIMSELF!
3.

THEREFORE I AM HONORED THAT DR. BLAKE ASKED ME TO DEMONSTRATE HIS INVENTION FOR HIM!
I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING! ZAXTON IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST THEORETICAL PHYSICISTS!
HE EASILY UNDERSTOOD THE INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL OF MY ANDROID!
USING THIS PALM-SIZE REMOTE CONTROL PANEL, I WILL SIGNAL THE ANDROID TO STEP FORWARD!
FIRST, I WILL ILLUSTRATE HIS UNEARTHLY INTELLIGENCE! WILL SOME EXPERT ON PHYSICS COME FORWARD AND GIVE THE ANDROID A SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEM?
I'VE GOT ONE, ZAXTON!
IF BLAKE'S ANDROID CAN SOLVE THIS BRAIN-TWISTER, HE'LL HAVE PUZZLED OUT AN EQUATION I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE IN ALL MY YEARS!
ANDROID! WORK PROFESSOR VLACH'S EQUATION!
GOOD HEAVENS! H-HE'S DOING IT! HE'S SOLVED THE WORLD'S MOST COMPLICATED MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM!
NATURALLY! BLAKE BUILT INTO THE ANDROID AN I.Q. OF 375...TWICE THAT OF THE BRIGHTEST HUMAN BEING!
NOW FOR A TEST NO MERE HUMAN COULD PASS... RESISTANCE TO THOR'S MIGHTY HAMMER! THOR!!
READY, PROFESSOR ZAXTON!
PWWAAANGGG!
4.

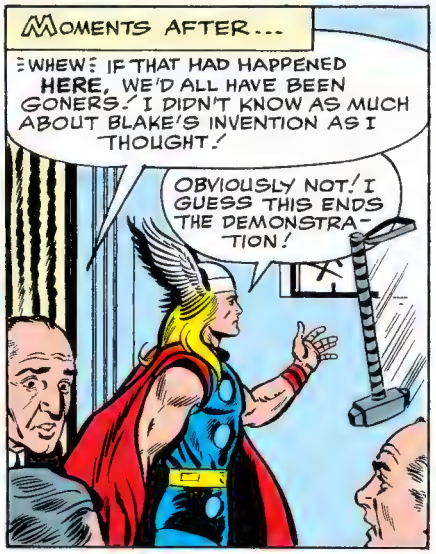
AMAZING, EH? THOR'S HAMMER CAN SPLIT A MOUNTAIN, BUT IT CAN'T EVEN SCRATCH THE ANDROID'S SKULL!
WHY NOT? BECAUSE DR. BLAKE GAVE THIS SYNTHETIC CREATURE AN UNBREAKABLE SKIN! ONLY DR. BLAKE KNOWS THE SECRET FORMULA FOR THE ANDROID'S IMPENETRABLE PLASTIC TISSUE!
"IMAGINE THE AMAZING APPLICATIONS OF BLAKE'S INVENTION! FOR INSTANCE, AN ARMY OF ULTRA-INTELLIGENT ANDROIDS WHO CAN SURVIVE ANY MILITARY ATTACK ... EVEN NUCLEAR BOMBS! SUCH SOLDIERS WOULD BE INVINCIBLE!"
SUDDENLY... WAIT! ZAXTON'S HAND MUST'VE SLIPPED AND TWISTED ALL THE DIALS AT ONCE! MY ENTIRE MECHANISM IS BEING SHORT-CIRCUITED!
WHAT?!!
DON'T WORRY, THOR! IF THE ANDROID BLOWS UP, IT WILL ONLY BE INTERNALLY! HIS INDESTRUCTIBLE SKIN WILL CONTAIN THE EXPLOSION!
YOU'RE WRONG, ZAXTON!
DR. BLAKE CONSTRUCTED MY ANATOMY OUT OF THE SAME PLASTIC SUBSTANCE! WHEN I EXPLODE, MY SKIN WILL DISINTEGRATE LIKE SHRAPNEL!
FOR PETE'S SAKE, THOR, DO SOMETHING!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO! GET RID OF THIS SUPER-GRENADE!
RRIPPP!
5.

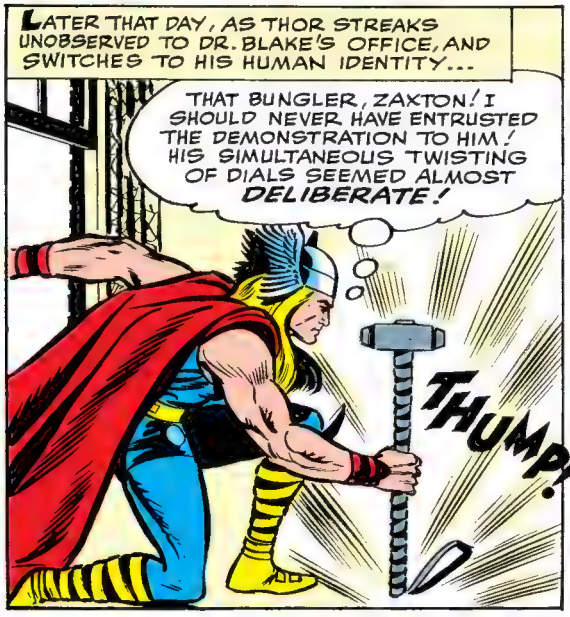

I'LL STRAP HIM TO MY HAMMER WITH THESE TWO METAL SECTIONS FROM THE DEMOLISHED VAULT DOOR!
HURRY, THOR! THE MOLECULAR CHANGE IS ALMOST COMPLETED INSIDE ME!

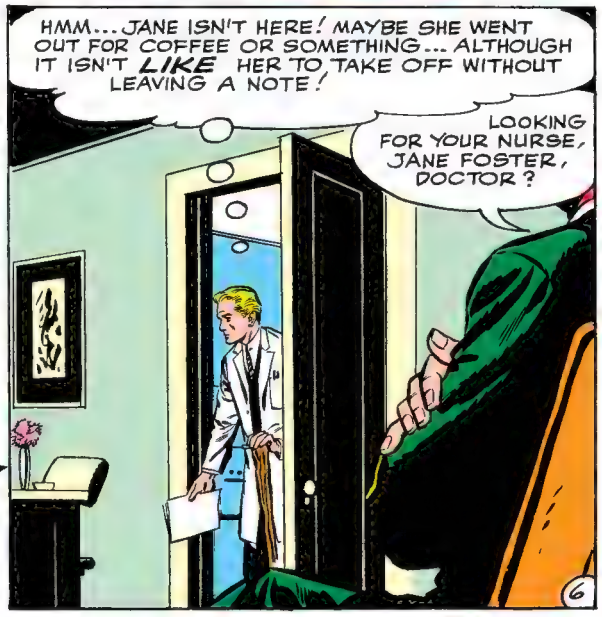
I'M READY TO...

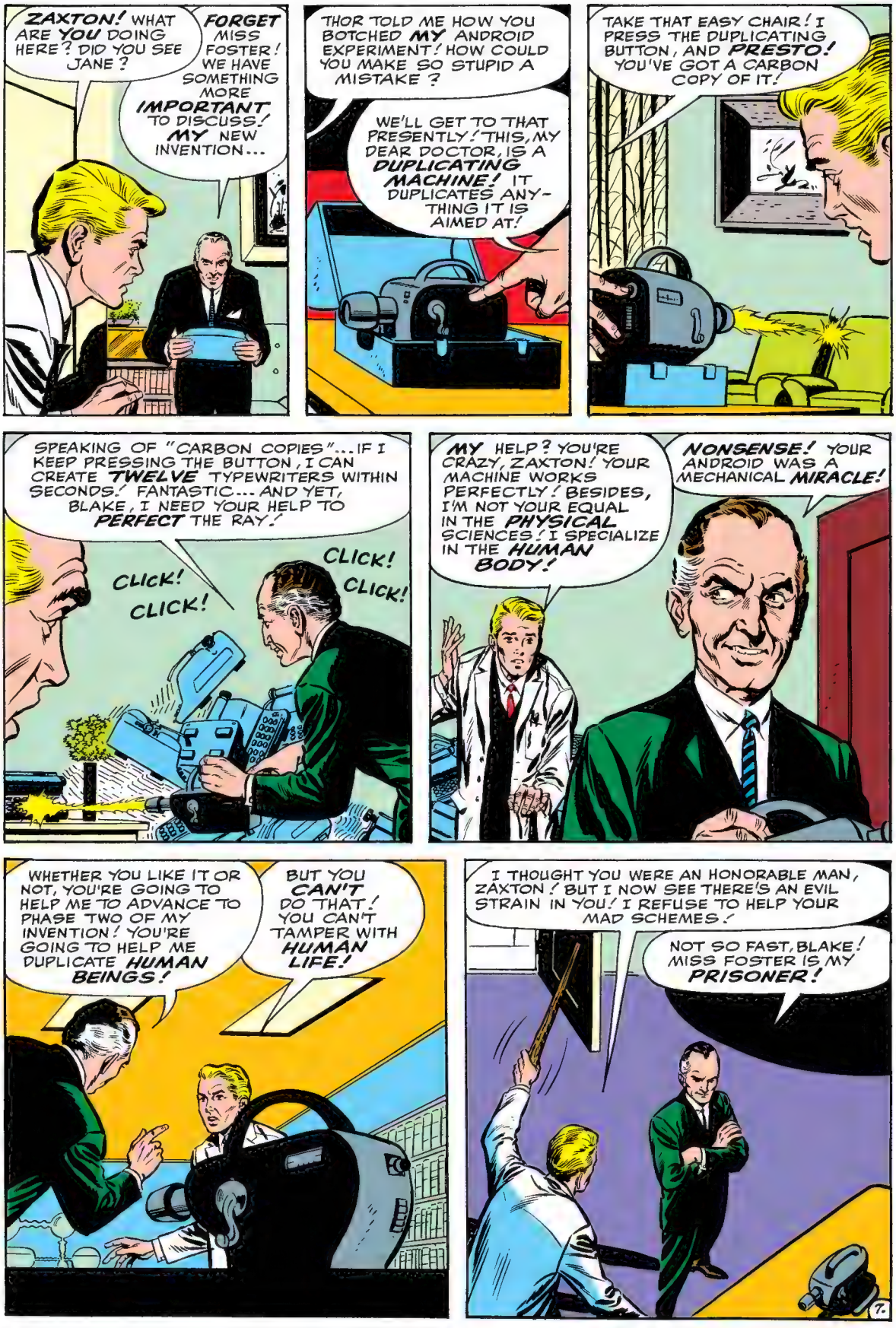
...EXPLODE!

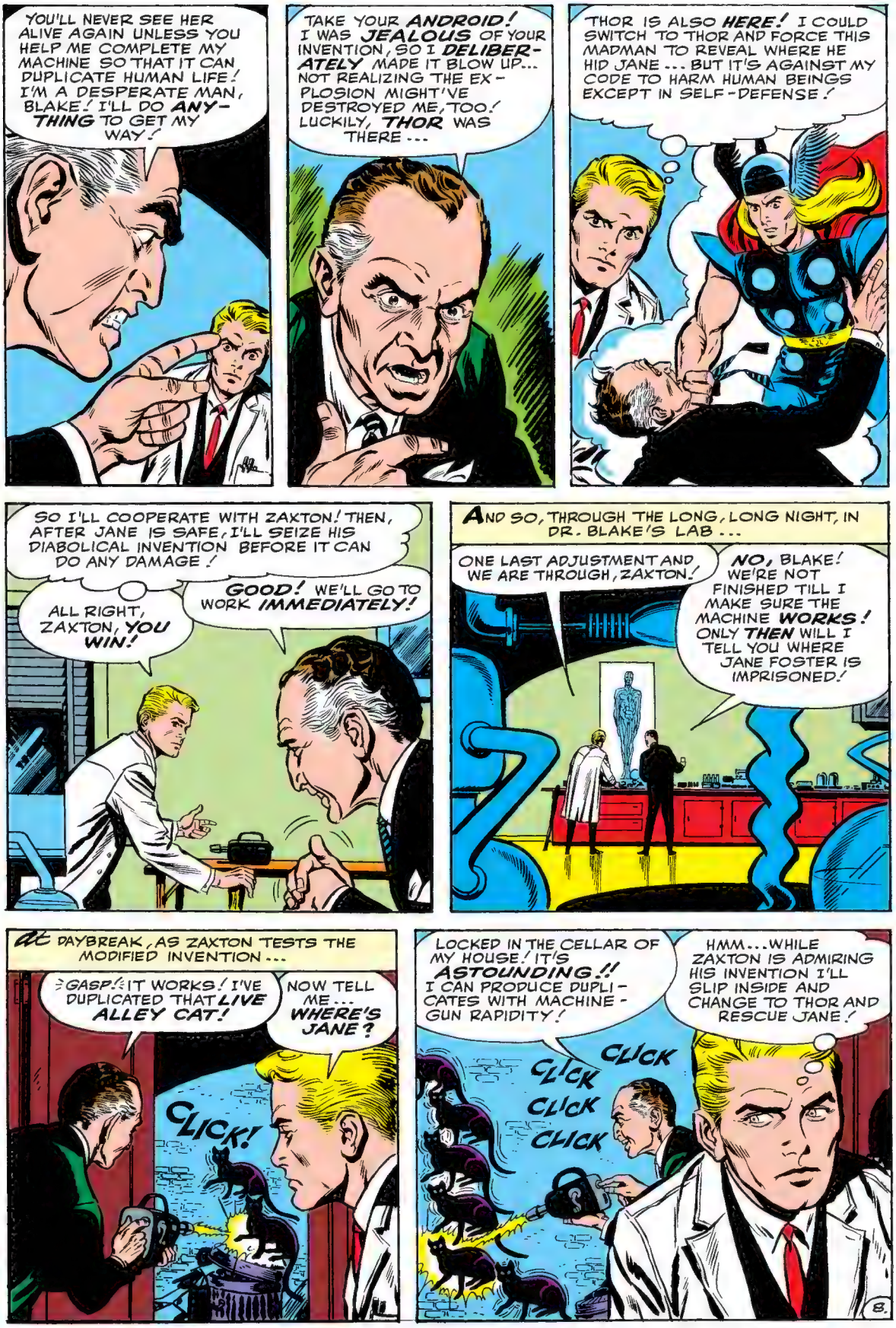
BARROOOMMM!

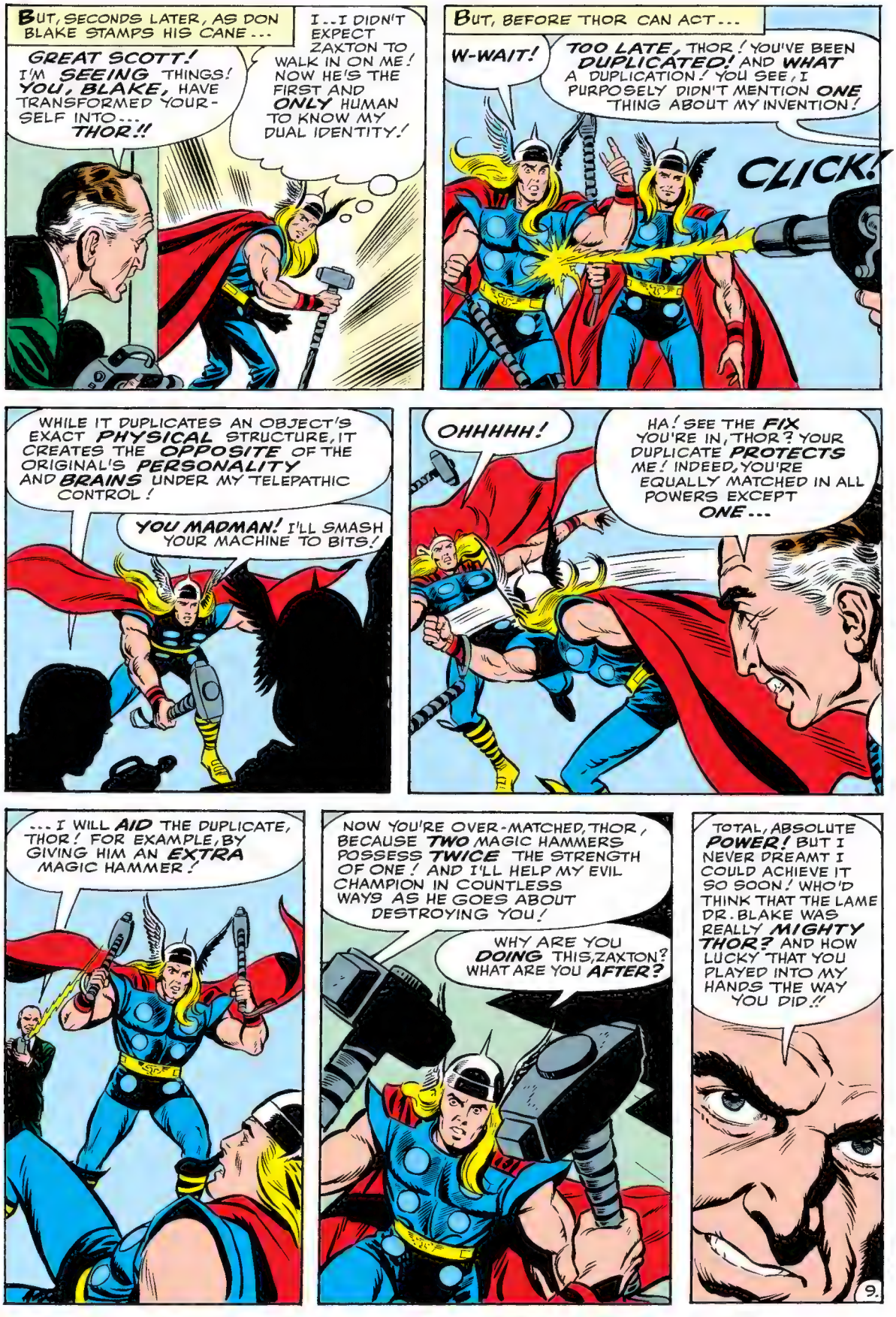

MOMENTS AFTER...
WHEW! IF THAT HAD HAPPENED HERE, WE'D ALL HAVE BEEN GONERS! I DIDN'T KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT BLAKE'S INVENTION AS I THOUGHT!
OBVIOUSLY NOT! I GUESS THIS ENDS THE DEMONSTRATION!

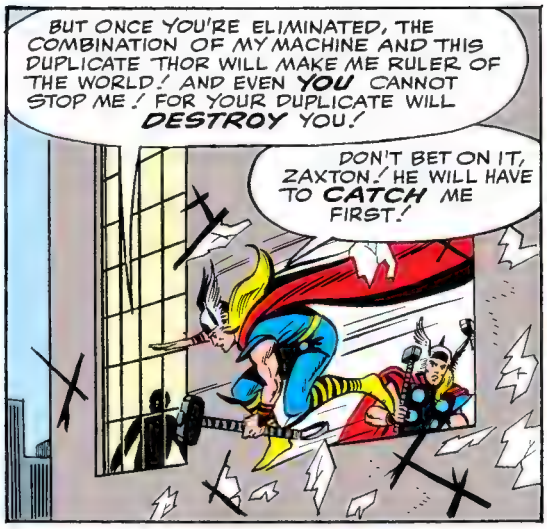

LATER THAT DAY, AS THOR STREAKS UNOBSERVED TO DR. BLAKE'S OFFICE, AND SWITCHES TO HIS HUMAN IDENTITY...
THAT BUNGLER, ZAXTON! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE ENTRUSTED THE DEMONSTRATION TO HIM! HIS SIMULTANEOUS TWISTING OF DIALS SEEMED ALMOST DELIBERATE!
THUMP!

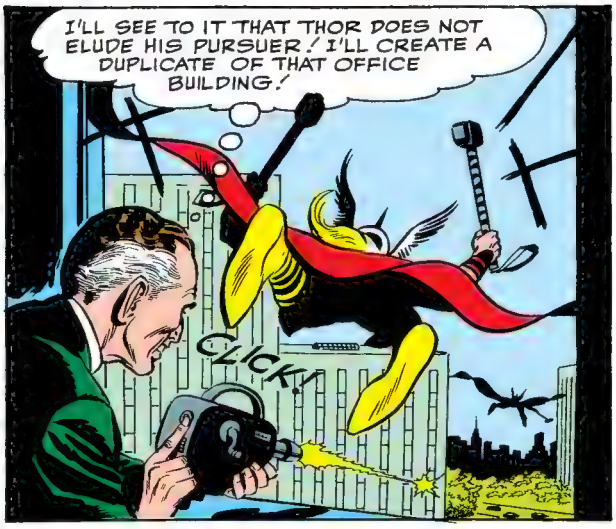

HMM... JANE ISN'T HERE! MAYBE SHE WENT OUT FOR COFFEE OR SOMETHING... ALTHOUGH IT ISN'T LIKE HER TO TAKE OFF WITHOUT LEAVING A NOTE!
LOOKING FOR YOUR NURSE, JANE FOSTER, DOCTOR?

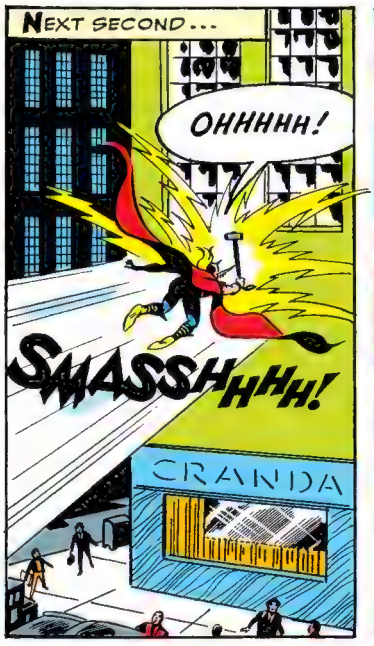

ZAXTON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DID YOU SEE JANE?
FORGET MISS FOSTER! WE HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS! MY NEW INVENTION...
THOR TOLD ME HOW YOU BOTCHED MY ANDROID EXPERIMENT! HOW COULD YOU MAKE SO STUPID A MISTAKE?
WE'LL GET TO THAT PRESENTLY! THIS, MY DEAR DOCTOR, IS A DUPLICATING MACHINE! IT DUPLICATES ANYTHING IT IS AIMED AT!
TAKE THAT EASY CHAIR! I PRESS THE DUPLICATING BUTTON, AND PRESTO! YOU'VE GOT A CARBON COPY OF IT!
SPEAKING OF "CARBON COPIES"... IF I KEEP PRESSING THE BUTTON, I CAN CREATE TWELVE TYPEWRITERS WITHIN SECONDS! FANTASTIC... AND YET, BLAKE, I NEED YOUR HELP TO PERFECT THE RAY!
CLICK! CLICK!
CLICK! CLICK!
MY HELP? YOU'RE CRAZY, ZAXTON! YOUR MACHINE WORKS PERFECTLY! BESIDES, I'M NOT YOUR EQUAL IN THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES! I SPECIALIZE IN THE HUMAN BODY!
NONSENSE! YOUR ANDROID WAS A MECHANICAL MIRACLE!
WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME TO ADVANCE TO PHASE TWO OF MY INVENTION! YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME DUPLICATE HUMAN BEINGS!
BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT! YOU CAN'T TAMPER WITH HUMAN LIFE!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN HONORABLE MAN, ZAXTON! BUT I NOW SEE THERE'S AN EVIL STRAIN IN YOU! I REFUSE TO HELP YOUR MAD SCHEMES!
NOT SO FAST, BLAKE! MISS FOSTER IS MY PRISONER!
7.


YOU'LL NEVER SEE HER ALIVE AGAIN UNLESS YOU HELP ME COMPLETE MY MACHINE SO THAT IT CAN DUPLICATE HUMAN LIFE! I'M A DESPERATE MAN, BLAKE! I'LL DO ANY-THING TO GET MY WAY!
TAKE YOUR ANDROID! I WAS JEALOUS OF YOUR INVENTION, SO I DELIBER-ATELY MADE IT BLOW UP... NOT REALIZING THE EX-PLOSION MIGHT'VE DESTROYED ME, TOO! LUCKILY, THOR WAS THERE ...
THOR IS ALSO HERE! I COULD SWITCH TO THOR AND FORCE THIS MADMAN TO REVEAL WHERE HE HID JANE ... BUT IT'S AGAINST MY CODE TO HARM HUMAN BEINGS EXCEPT IN SELF-DEFENSE!
SO I'LL COOPERATE WITH ZAXTON! THEN, AFTER JANE IS SAFE, I'LL SEIZE HIS DIABOLICAL INVENTION BEFORE IT CAN DO ANY DAMAGE!
ALL RIGHT, ZAXTON, YOU WIN!
GOOD! WE'LL GO TO WORK IMMEDIATELY!
AND SO, THROUGH THE LONG, LONG NIGHT, IN DR. BLAKE'S LAB ...
ONE LAST ADJUSTMENT AND WE ARE THROUGH, ZAXTON!
NO, BLAKE! WE'RE NOT FINISHED TILL I MAKE SURE THE MACHINE WORKS! ONLY THEN WILL I TELL YOU WHERE JANE FOSTER IS IMPRISONED!
AT DAYBREAK, AS ZAXTON TESTS THE MODIFIED INVENTION ...
GASP! IT WORKS! I'VE DUPLICATED THAT LIVE ALLEY CAT!
NOW TELL ME ... WHERE'S JANE?
CLICK!
LOCKED IN THE CELLAR OF MY HOUSE! IT'S ASTOUNDING!! I CAN PRODUCE DUPLI-CATES WITH MACHINE-GUN RAPIDITY!
HMM...WHILE ZAXTON IS ADMIRING HIS INVENTION I'LL SLIP INSIDE AND CHANGE TO THOR AND RESCUE JANE!
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
8.

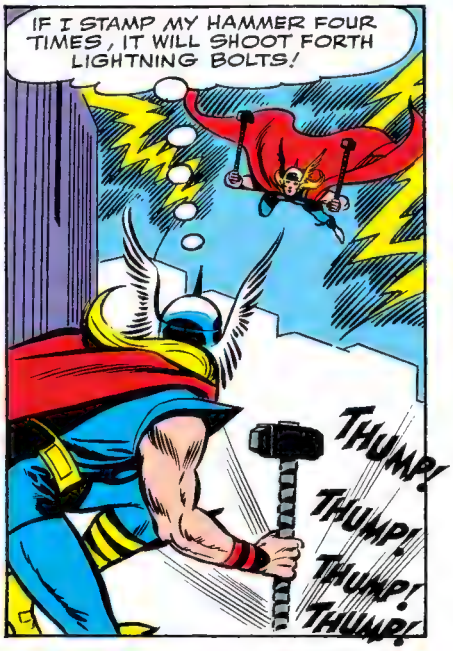

BUT, SECONDS LATER, AS DON BLAKE STAMPS HIS CANE...
GREAT SCOTT! I'M SEEING THINGS! YOU, BLAKE, HAVE TRANSFORMED YOURSELF INTO... THOR!!
I--I DIDN'T EXPECT ZAXTON TO WALK IN ON ME! NOW HE'S THE FIRST AND ONLY HUMAN TO KNOW MY DUAL IDENTITY!
BUT, BEFORE THOR CAN ACT...
W-WAIT!
TOO LATE, THOR! YOU'VE BEEN DUPLICATED! AND WHAT A DUPLICATION! YOU SEE, I PURPOSELY DIDN'T MENTION ONE THING ABOUT MY INVENTION!
CLICK!
WHILE IT DUPLICATES AN OBJECT'S EXACT PHYSICAL STRUCTURE, IT CREATES THE OPPOSITE OF THE ORIGINAL'S PERSONALITY AND BRAINS UNDER MY TELEPATHIC CONTROL!
YOU MADMAN! I'LL SMASH YOUR MACHINE TO BITS!
OHHHHH!
HA! SEE THE FIX YOU'RE IN, THOR? YOUR DUPLICATE PROTECTS ME! INDEED, YOU'RE EQUALLY MATCHED IN ALL POWERS EXCEPT ONE...
...I WILL AID THE DUPLICATE, THOR! FOR EXAMPLE, BY GIVING HIM AN EXTRA MAGIC HAMMER!
NOW YOU'RE OVER-MATCHED, THOR, BECAUSE TWO MAGIC HAMMERS POSSESS TWICE THE STRENGTH OF ONE! AND I'LL HELP MY EVIL CHAMPION IN COUNTLESS WAYS AS HE GOES ABOUT DESTROYING YOU!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, ZAXTON? WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?
TOTAL, ABSOLUTE POWER! BUT I NEVER DREAMT I COULD ACHIEVE IT SO SOON! WHO'D THINK THAT THE LAME DR. BLAKE WAS REALLY MIGHTY THOR? AND HOW LUCKY THAT YOU PLAYED INTO MY HANDS THE WAY YOU DID!!
9.

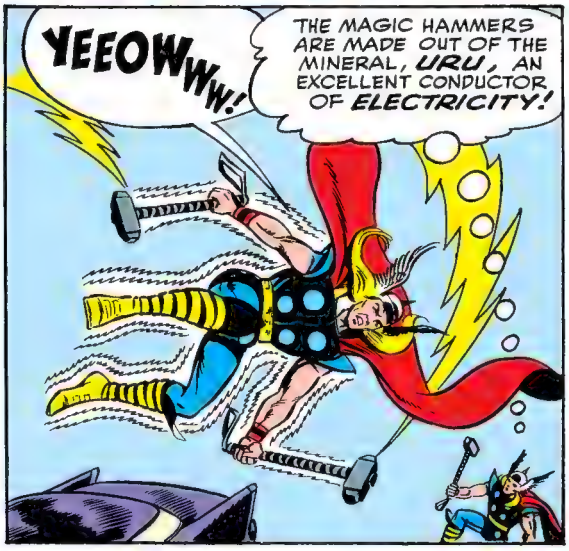

BUT ONCE YOU'RE ELIMINATED, THE COMBINATION OF MY MACHINE AND THIS DUPLICATE THOR WILL MAKE ME RULER OF THE WORLD! AND EVEN YOU CANNOT STOP ME! FOR YOUR DUPLICATE WILL DESTROY YOU!
DON'T BET ON IT, ZAXTON! HE WILL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST!

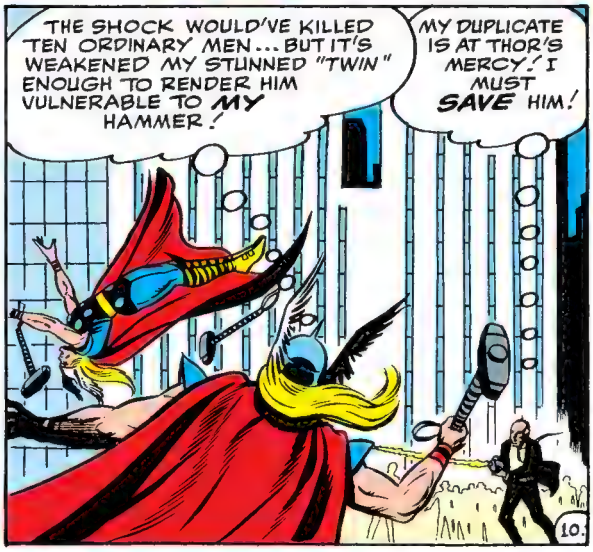

I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THOR DOES NOT ELUDE HIS PURSUER! I'LL CREATE A DUPLICATE OF THAT OFFICE BUILDING!
CLICK!

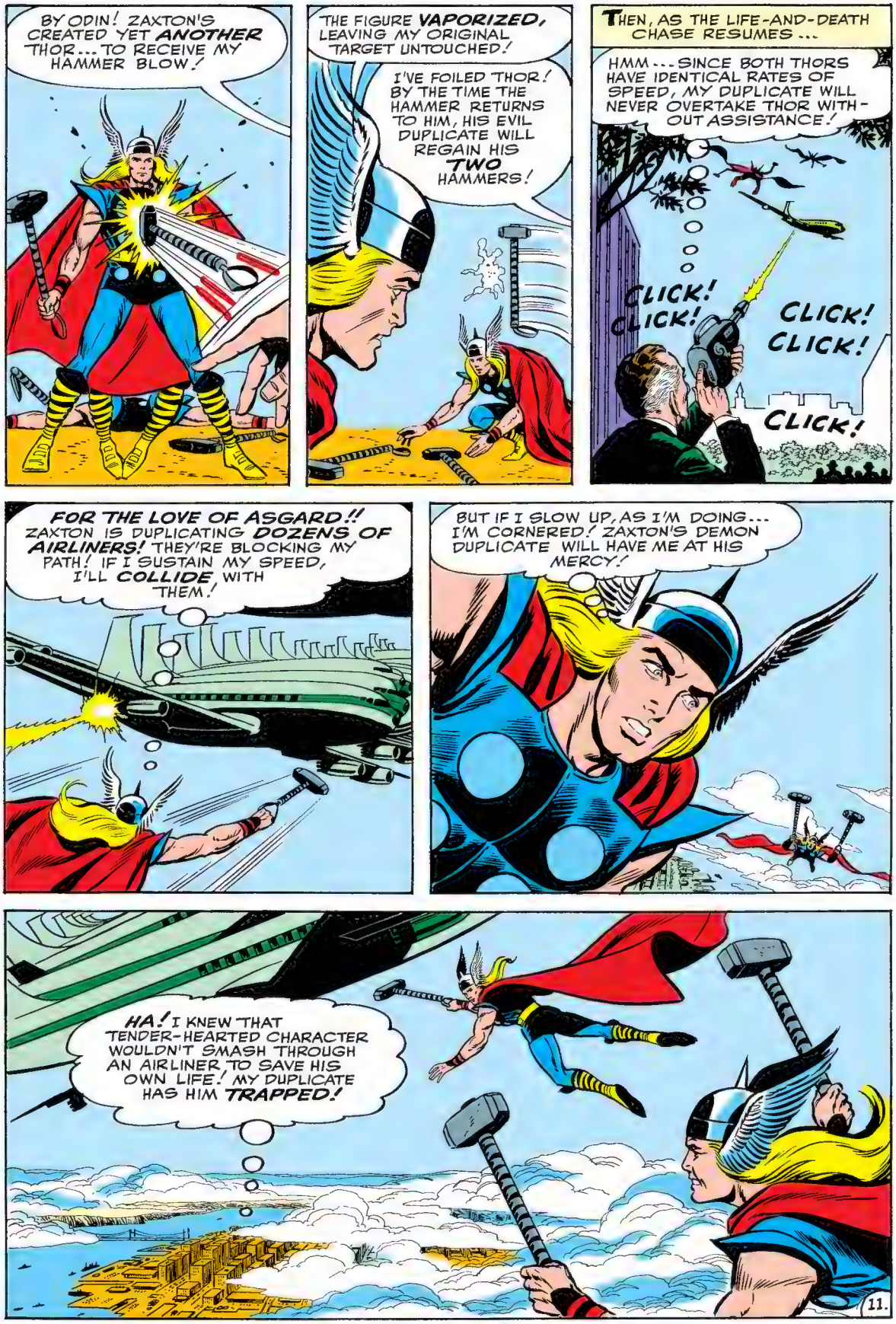

NEXT SECOND...
OHHHHH!
SMASSHHHH!
CRANDA

THE IMPACT FLOORED ME! AND HERE COMES MY DUPLICATE...MUSTN'T LET HIM STRIKE ME WITH THOSE TWO MIGHTY HAMMERS!

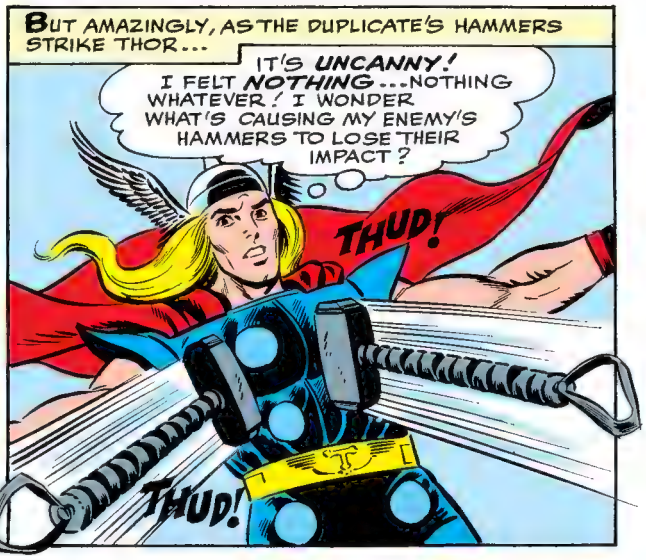

IF I STAMP MY HAMMER FOUR TIMES, IT WILL SHOOT FORTH LIGHTNING BOLTS!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!

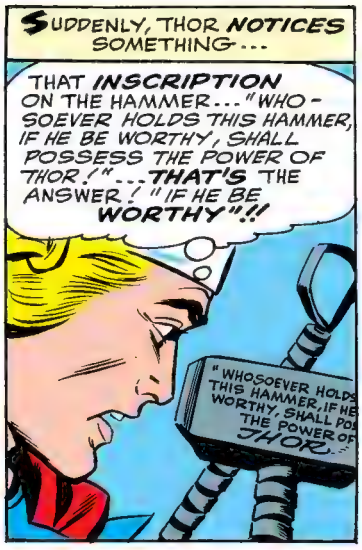

YEEOWWW!
THE MAGIC HAMMERS ARE MADE OUT OF THE MINERAL, URU, AN EXCELLENT CONDUCTOR OF ELECTRICITY!


THE SHOCK WOULD'VE KILLED TEN ORDINARY MEN... BUT IT'S WEAKENED MY STUNNED "TWIN" ENOUGH TO RENDER HIM VULNERABLE TO MY HAMMER!
MY DUPLICATE IS AT THOR'S MERCY! I MUST SAVE HIM!

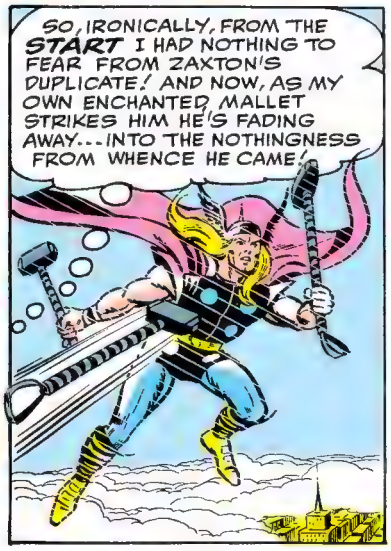

BY ODIN! ZAXTON'S CREATED YET ANOTHER THOR... TO RECEIVE MY HAMMER BLOW!
THE FIGURE VAPORIZED, LEAVING MY ORIGINAL TARGET UNTOUCHED!
I'VE FOILED THOR! BY THE TIME THE HAMMER RETURNS TO HIM, HIS EVIL DUPLICATE WILL REGAIN HIS TWO HAMMERS!
THEN, AS THE LIFE-AND-DEATH CHASE RESUMES ...
HMM... SINCE BOTH THORS HAVE IDENTICAL RATES OF SPEED, MY DUPLICATE WILL NEVER OVERTAKE THOR WITHOUT ASSISTANCE!
CLICK! CLICK!
CLICK! CLICK!
CLICK!
FOR THE LOVE OF ASGARD!! ZAXTON IS DUPLICATING DOZENS OF AIRLINERS! THEY'RE BLOCKING MY PATH! IF I SUSTAIN MY SPEED, I'LL COLLIDE WITH THEM!
BUT IF I SLOW UP, AS I'M DOING... I'M CORNERED! ZAXTON'S DEMON DUPLICATE WILL HAVE ME AT HIS MERCY!
HA! I KNEW THAT TENDER-HEARTED CHARACTER WOULDN'T SMASH THROUGH AN AIRLINER TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE! MY DUPLICATE HAS HIM TRAPPED!

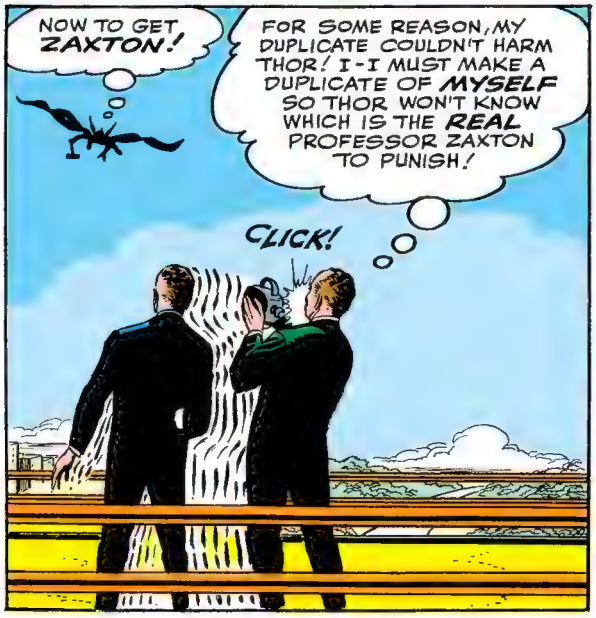
NO WAY OUT! IN A SPLIT-SECOND BOTH HAMMERS WILL STRIKE ME... OVERPOWERING ME BY THE DOUBLE BLOW!


BUT AMAZINGLY, AS THE DUPLICATE'S HAMMERS STRIKE THOR...
IT'S UNCANNY! I FELT NOTHING...NOTHING WHATEVER! I WONDER WHAT'S CAUSING MY ENEMY'S HAMMERS TO LOSE THEIR IMPACT?
THUD!
THUD!

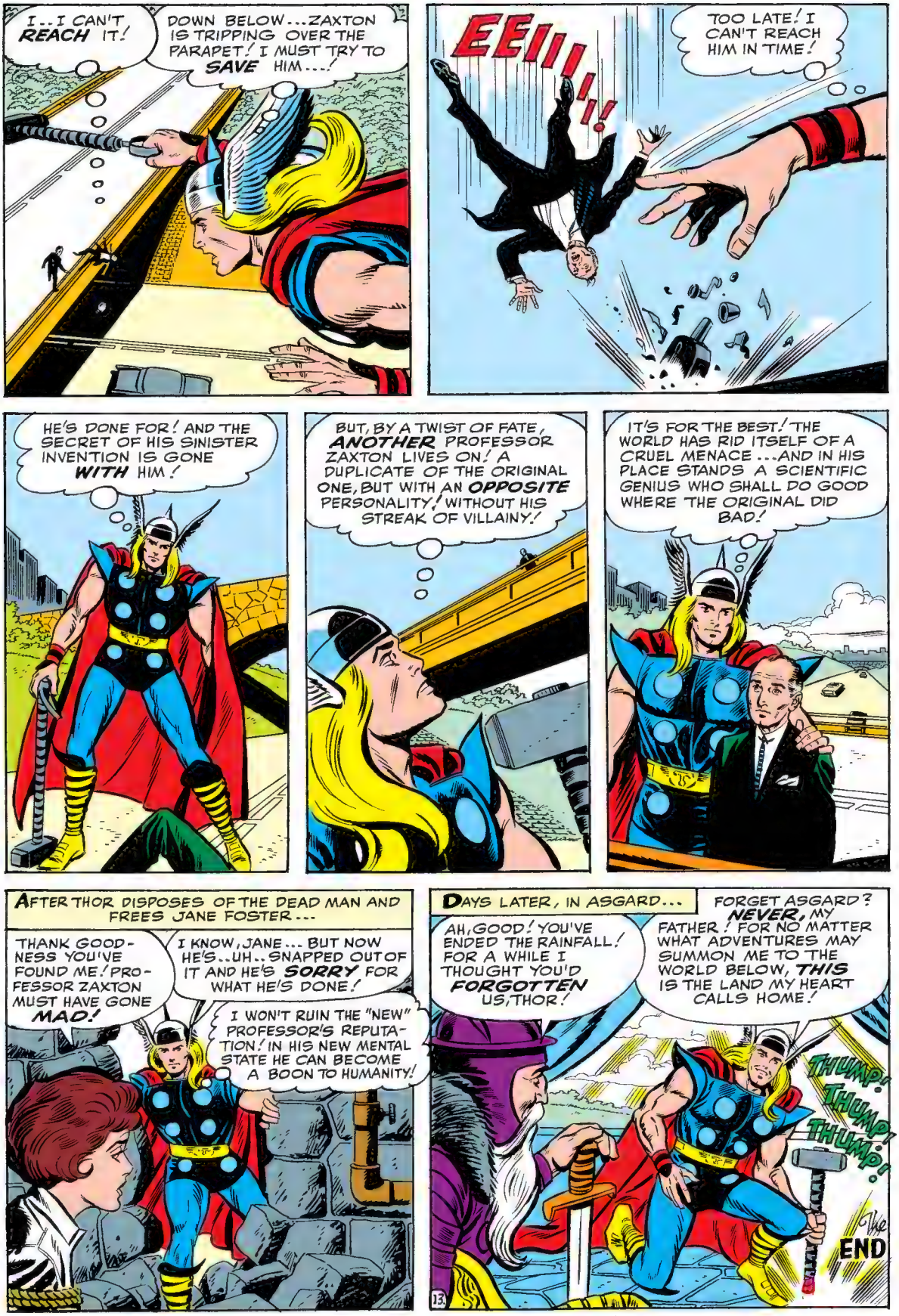

SUDDENLY, THOR NOTICES SOMETHING...
THAT INSCRIPTION ON THE HAMMER..."WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF THOR!"...THAT'S THE ANSWER! "IF HE BE WORTHY"!!
"WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE WORTHY, SHALL PO THE POWER OF THOR."

THAT'S WHY MY DUPLICATE, EVEN IF HE HELD A HUNDRED HAMMERS, WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DEFEAT ME WITH THEM! HE IS AN EVIL COPY OF ME, THEREFORE UNWORTHY TO POSSESS MY HAMMER'S POWER!


SO, IRONICALLY, FROM THE START I HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ZAXTON'S DUPLICATE! AND NOW, AS MY OWN ENCHANTED MALLET STRIKES HIM HE'S FADING AWAY...INTO THE NOTHINGNESS FROM WHENCE HE CAME!

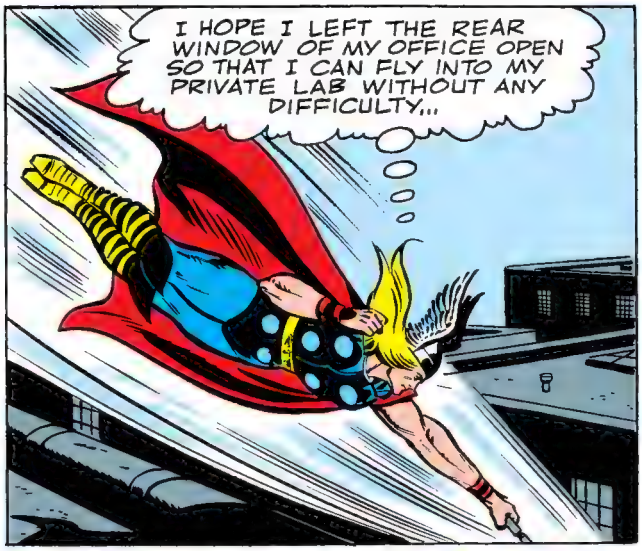

NOW TO GET ZAXTON!
FOR SOME REASON, MY DUPLICATE COULDN'T HARM THOR! I-I MUST MAKE A DUPLICATE OF MYSELF SO THOR WON'T KNOW WHICH IS THE REAL PROFESSOR ZAXTON TO PUNISH!
CLICK!

OH...NO!! IN MY NERVOUSNESS, THE MACHINE SLIPPED OUT OF MY HANDS! I MUST GRAB IT BEFORE IT FALLS OVER THE PARAPET!


I..I CAN'T REACH IT!
DOWN BELOW...ZAXTON IS TRIPPING OVER THE PARAPET! I MUST TRY TO SAVE HIM...!
EEIIII!!
TOO LATE! I CAN'T REACH HIM IN TIME!
HE'S DONE FOR! AND THE SECRET OF HIS SINISTER INVENTION IS GONE WITH HIM!
BUT, BY A TWIST OF FATE, ANOTHER PROFESSOR ZAXTON LIVES ON! A DUPLICATE OF THE ORIGINAL ONE, BUT WITH AN OPPOSITE PERSONALITY! WITHOUT HIS STREAK OF VILLAINY!
IT'S FOR THE BEST! THE WORLD HAS RID ITSELF OF A CRUEL MENACE ...AND IN HIS PLACE STANDS A SCIENTIFIC GENIUS WHO SHALL DO GOOD WHERE THE ORIGINAL DID BAD!
AFTER THOR DISPOSES OF THE DEAD MAN AND FREES JANE FOSTER ...
THANK GOODNESS YOU'VE FOUND ME! PROFESSOR ZAXTON MUST HAVE GONE MAD!
I KNOW, JANE... BUT NOW HE'S..UH.. SNAPPED OUT OF IT AND HE'S SORRY FOR WHAT HE'S DONE!
I WON'T RUIN THE "NEW" PROFESSOR'S REPUTATION! IN HIS NEW MENTAL STATE HE CAN BECOME A BOON TO HUMANITY!
DAYS LATER, IN ASGARD...
AH, GOOD! YOU'VE ENDED THE RAINFALL! FOR A WHILE I THOUGHT YOU'D FORGOTTEN US, THOR!
FORGET ASGARD? NEVER, MY FATHER! FOR NO MATTER WHAT ADVENTURES MAY SUMMON ME TO THE WORLD BELOW, THIS IS THE LAND MY HEART CALLS HOME!
THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!
THE END
13

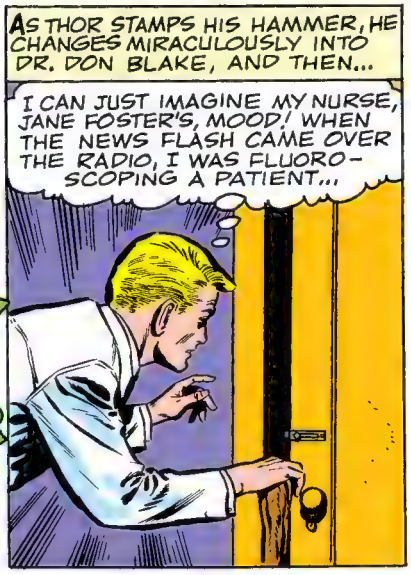
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
IND.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢
96 SEPT.
THRILL TO THE BATTLE OF TITANS — AS MIGHTY THOR FACES THE AWESOME POWER OF MERLIN THE MAD!
BEHOLD, THOR... YOUR POWER IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE MYSTIC ARTS AT MY COMMAND!
MERLIN'S ENCHANTMENT HAS STILLED MY ARM!! I CANNOT MOVE! HOW CAN I BREAK HIS SPELL?
OOOOOO
SUPER-HEROES! SUPER-VILLAINS! IN THE MARVEL-OUS MARVEL STYLE!

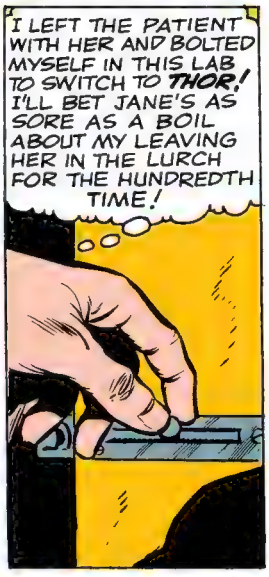
THE MIGHTY THOR!
DEFYING THE MAGIC OF...
MAD MERLIN!
HMM... SO "MERLIN" IS VISITING AMERICA! IT'S A GOOD THING HE'S IN NO CONDITION TO PRACTICE HIS STRANGE SORCERY NOW!
HEY, PROFESSOR! WHAT'S INSIDE THAT BIG, STONE SARCOPHAGUS?
THE BODY OF MERLIN, THE MAD WIZARD OF KING ARTHUR'S COURT! MERLIN'S CRYPT WAS JUST DISCOVERED IN ENGLAND, AND IT'LL BE OPENED BY ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPERTS AT THE NEW YORK MUSEUM TOMORROW!
STORY PLOT: STAN LEE
SCRIPT: R. BERNS
ART: JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING: ART SIMEK
1

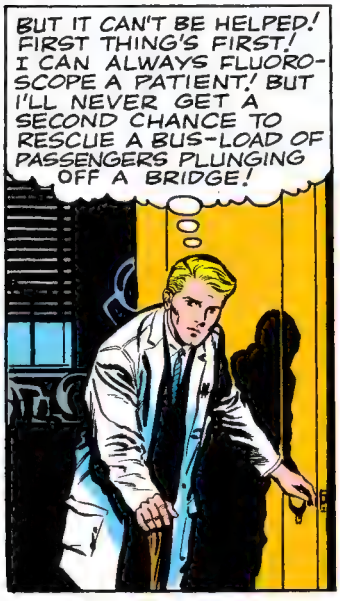

I HOPE I LEFT THE REAR WINDOW OF MY OFFICE OPEN SO THAT I CAN FLY INTO MY PRIVATE LAB WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTY...

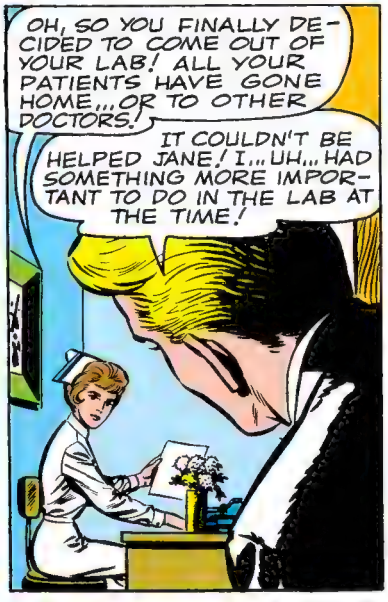
YES! EVERYTHING IS AS I LEFT IT WHEN I TOOK OFF AN HOUR AGO TO HANDLE THAT BUS ACCIDENT!

I LEFT AN OFFICE FULL OF PATIENTS! I WONDER WHETHER THEY'RE STILL WAITING FOR ME!
THUMP!
THUMP!

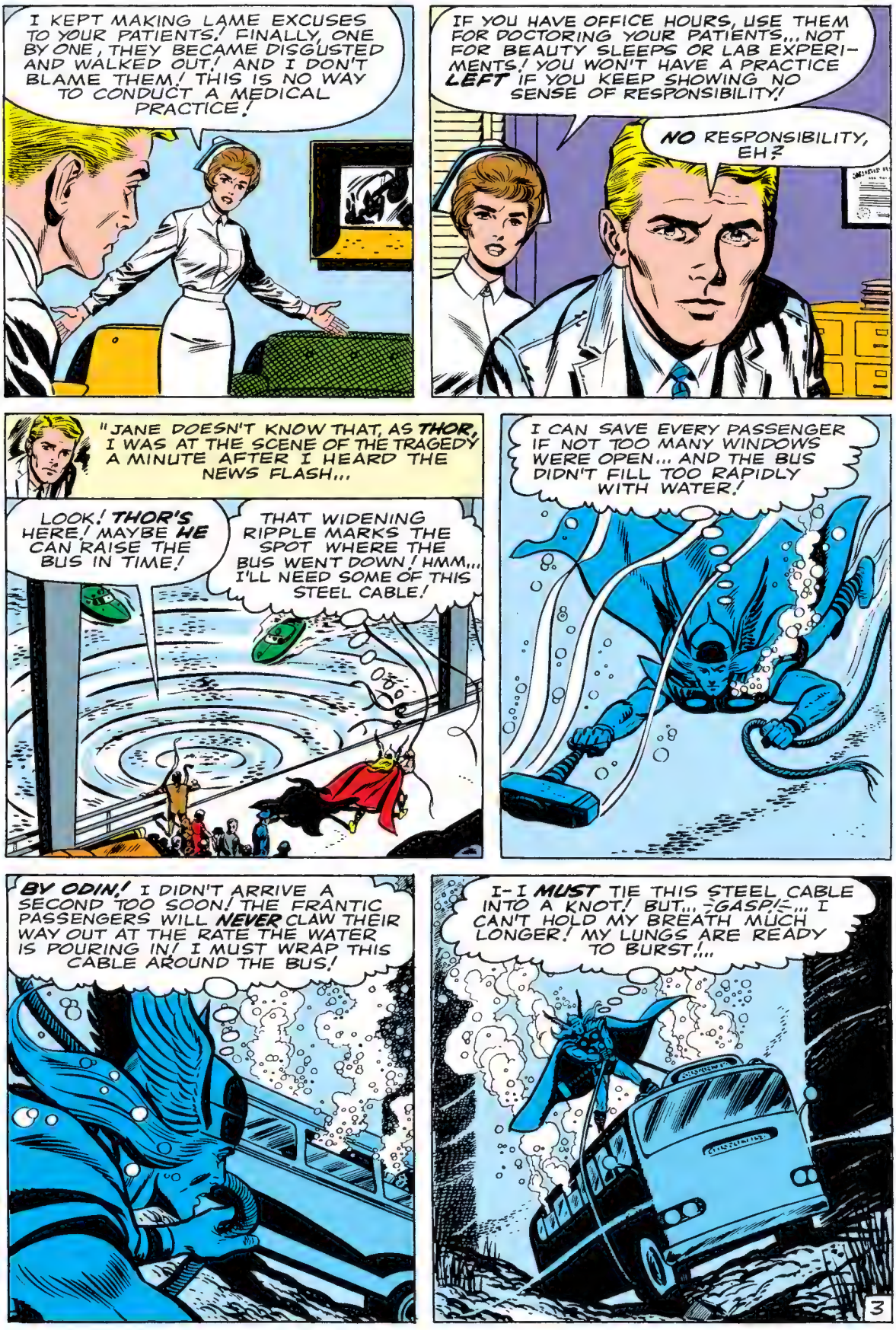

AS THOR STAMPS HIS HAMMER, HE CHANGES MIRACULOUSLY INTO DR. DON BLAKE, AND THEN...
I CAN JUST IMAGINE MY NURSE, JANE FOSTER'S, MOOD! WHEN THE NEWS FLASH CAME OVER THE RADIO, I WAS FLUORO-SCOPING A PATIENT...

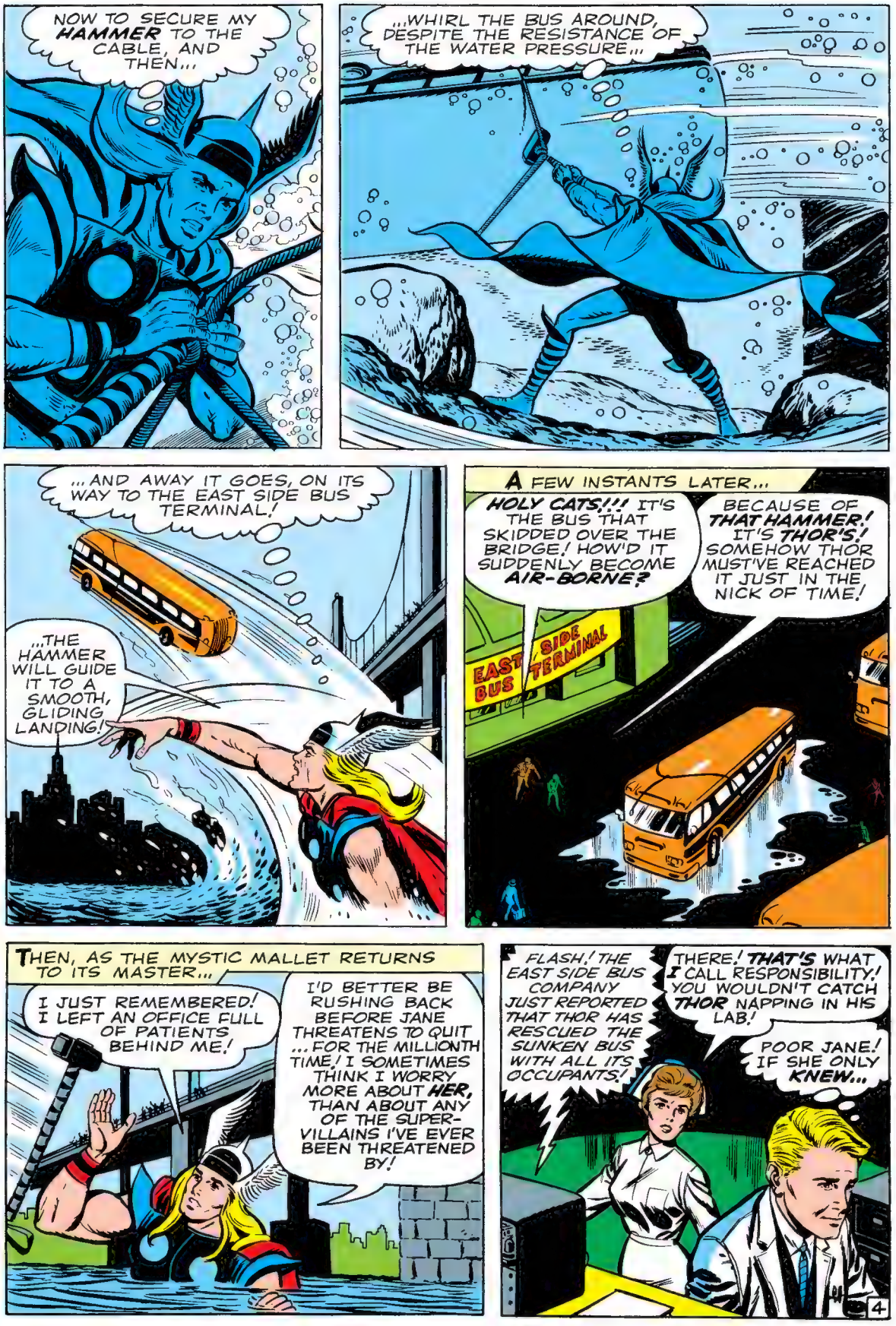

I LEFT THE PATIENT WITH HER AND BOLTED MYSELF IN THIS LAB TO SWITCH TO THOR! I'LL BET JANE'S AS SORE AS A BOIL ABOUT MY LEAVING HER IN THE LURCH FOR THE HUNDREDTH TIME!

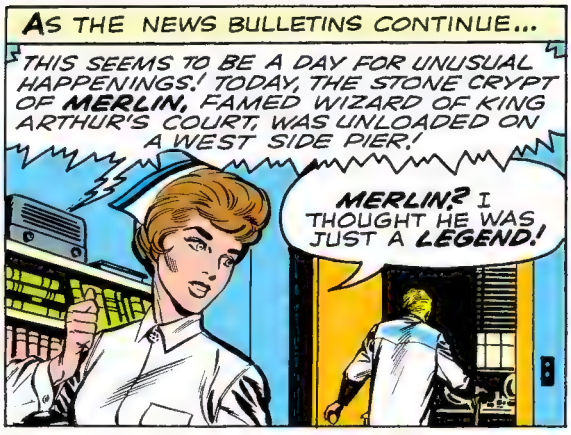

BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED! FIRST THING'S FIRST! I CAN ALWAYS FLUORO-SCOPE A PATIENT! BUT I'LL NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE TO RESCUE A BUS-LOAD OF PASSENGERS PLUNGING OFF A BRIDGE!

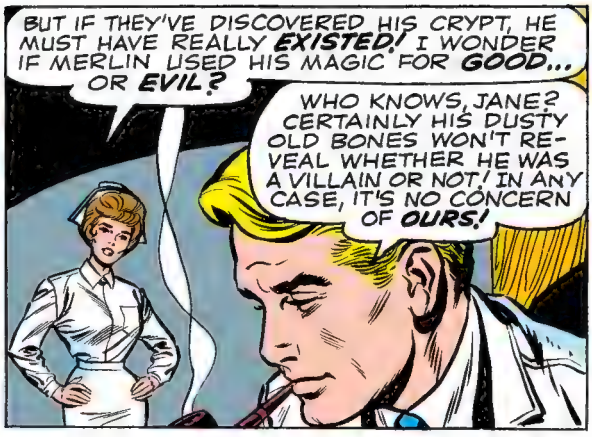

OH, SO YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO COME OUT OF YOUR LAB! ALL YOUR PATIENTS HAVE GONE HOME...OR TO OTHER DOCTORS!
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED JANE! I... UH... HAD SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DO IN THE LAB AT THE TIME!

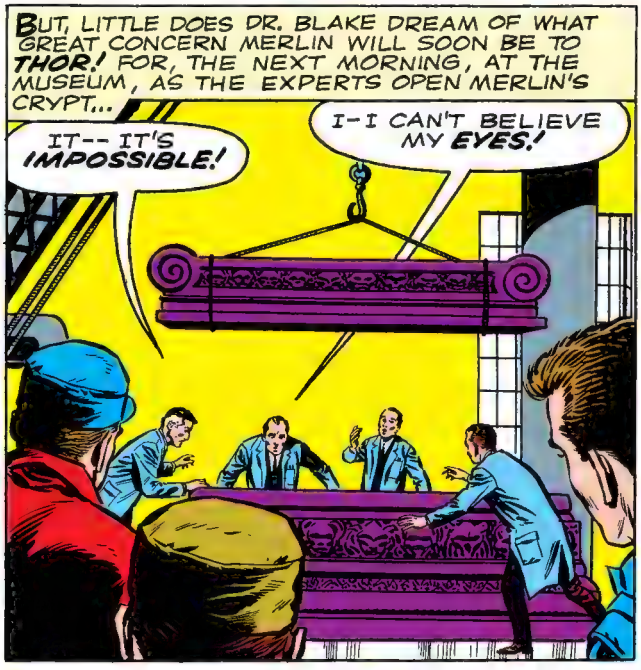
WHAT? A CHEMICAL EXPERIMENT? AN URGE TO TAKE A NAP? I HAMMERED ON THE LAB DOOR FOR A HALF HOUR... YET YOU DIDN'T EVEN DO ME THE COURTESY OF ANSWERING!


I KEPT MAKING LAME EXCUSES TO YOUR PATIENTS! FINALLY, ONE BY ONE, THEY BECAME DISGUSTED AND WALKED OUT! AND I DON'T BLAME THEM! THIS IS NO WAY TO CONDUCT A MEDICAL PRACTICE!
IF YOU HAVE OFFICE HOURS, USE THEM FOR DOCTORING YOUR PATIENTS... NOT FOR BEAUTY SLEEPS OR LAB EXPERIMENTS! YOU WON'T HAVE A PRACTICE LEFT IF YOU KEEP SHOWING NO SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY!
NO RESPONSIBILITY, EH?
"JANE DOESN'T KNOW THAT, AS THOR, I WAS AT THE SCENE OF THE TRAGEDY A MINUTE AFTER I HEARD THE NEWS FLASH...
LOOK! THOR'S HERE! MAYBE HE CAN RAISE THE BUS IN TIME!
THAT WIDENING RIPPLE MARKS THE SPOT WHERE THE BUS WENT DOWN! HMM... I'LL NEED SOME OF THIS STEEL CABLE!
I CAN SAVE EVERY PASSENGER IF NOT TOO MANY WINDOWS WERE OPEN... AND THE BUS DIDN'T FILL TOO RAPIDLY WITH WATER!
BY ODIN! I DIDN'T ARRIVE A SECOND TOO SOON! THE FRANTIC PASSENGERS WILL NEVER CLAW THEIR WAY OUT AT THE RATE THE WATER IS POURING IN! I MUST WRAP THIS CABLE AROUND THE BUS!
I-I MUST TIE THIS STEEL CABLE INTO A KNOT! BUT... -GASP!-... I CAN'T HOLD MY BREATH MUCH LONGER! MY LUNGS ARE READY TO BURST!...

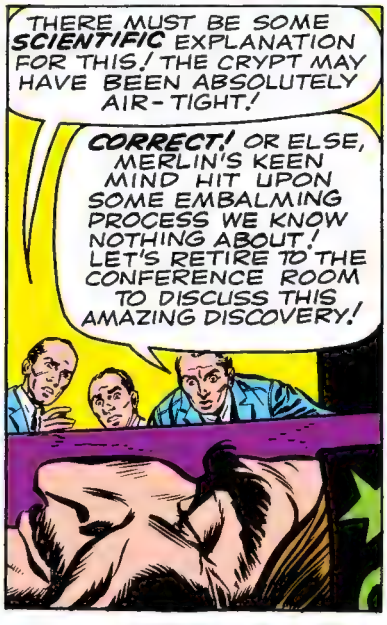

NOW TO SECURE MY HAMMER TO THE CABLE, AND THEN...
...WHIRL THE BUS AROUND, DESPITE THE RESISTANCE OF THE WATER PRESSURE...
...AND AWAY IT GOES, ON ITS WAY TO THE EAST SIDE BUS TERMINAL!
...THE HAMMER WILL GUIDE IT TO A SMOOTH, GLIDING LANDING!
A FEW INSTANTS LATER...
HOLY CATS!!! IT'S THE BUS THAT SKIDDED OVER THE BRIDGE! HOW'D IT SUDDENLY BECOME AIR-BORNE?
BECAUSE OF THAT HAMMER! IT'S THOR'S! SOMEHOW THOR MUST'VE REACHED IT JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!
EAST SIDE BUS TERMINAL
THEN, AS THE MYSTIC MALLET RETURNS TO ITS MASTER...
I JUST REMEMBERED! I LEFT AN OFFICE FULL OF PATIENTS BEHIND ME!
I'D BETTER BE RUSHING BACK BEFORE JANE THREATENS TO QUIT ...FOR THE MILLIONTH TIME! I SOMETIMES THINK I WORRY MORE ABOUT HER, THAN ABOUT ANY OF THE SUPER-VILLAINS I'VE EVER BEEN THREATENED BY!
FLASH! THE EAST SIDE BUS COMPANY JUST REPORTED THAT THOR HAS RESCUED THE SUNKEN BUS WITH ALL ITS OCCUPANTS!
THERE! THAT'S WHAT I CALL RESPONSIBILITY! YOU WOULDN'T CATCH THOR NAPPING IN HIS LAB!
POOR JANE! IF SHE ONLY KNEW...
4


AS THE NEWS BULLETINS CONTINUE...
THIS SEEMS TO BE A DAY FOR UNUSUAL HAPPENINGS! TODAY, THE STONE CRYPT OF MERLIN, FAMED WIZARD OF KING ARTHUR'S COURT, WAS UNLOADED ON A WEST SIDE PIER!
MERLIN? I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A LEGEND!


BUT IF THEY'VE DISCOVERED HIS CRYPT, HE MUST HAVE REALLY EXISTED! I WONDER IF MERLIN USED HIS MAGIC FOR GOOD... OR EVIL?
WHO KNOWS, JANE? CERTAINLY HIS DUSTY OLD BONES WON'T REVEAL WHETHER HE WAS A VILLAIN OR NOT! IN ANY CASE, IT'S NO CONCERN OF OURS!


BUT, LITTLE DOES DR. BLAKE DREAM OF WHAT GREAT CONCERN MERLIN WILL SOON BE TO THOR! FOR, THE NEXT MORNING, AT THE MUSEUM, AS THE EXPERTS OPEN MERLIN'S CRYPT...
IT-- IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!

HIS BODY IS IN PERFECT CONDITION... AS IF HE HAD DIED ONLY YESTERDAY! COULD HE HAVE USED MAGIC POWERS TO PRESERVE HIMSELF FOR 1,000 YEARS?
NONSENSE! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MAGIC!


THERE MUST BE SOME SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION FOR THIS! THE CRYPT MAY HAVE BEEN ABSOLUTELY AIR-TIGHT!
CORRECT! OR ELSE, MERLIN'S KEEN MIND HIT UPON SOME EMBALMING PROCESS WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT! LET'S RETIRE TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM TO DISCUSS THIS AMAZING DISCOVERY!

THEN, AFTER THE EXPERTS LEAVE, AND THE CRYPT REMAINS ALONE AND UNGUARDED IN THE VAST CHAMBER...
THEY'VE GONE! MY MASTER PLAN IS WORKING PERFECTLY!

THEY THINK I'M DEAD! BUT I NEVER DIED... NEVER!

I WAS PREPARED FOR MY ENEMIES! WHEN THEY CAME TO KILL ME, THEY FOUND ME IN A COMATOSE STATE! THEY THOUGHT I'D POISONED MYSELF! BUT I HAD MERELY USED A MAGIC SPELL WHICH ONLY MY GENIUS COULD CREATE!
THE SPELL ARRANGED THAT WHEN MY CRYPT WOULD BE OPENED, THE RUSH OF AIR WOULD REVIVE ME AFTER A SLEEP OF CENTURIES!
AND MANY CENTURIES IT HAS BEEN! ACCORDING TO THIS NEWSPAPER, IT IS THE YEAR 1963... AND THE KING... PRESIDENT, THEY CALL HIM... OF THIS LAND IS A CERTAIN JOHN F. KENNEDY!
DAIL
JFK SPEAKS TO NATION ON TV TONIGHT!
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WILL CONTAIN INFORMATION ON
"I REMEMBER WELL HOW MY SORCERY MADE ME THE POWER BEHIND KING ARTHUR'S THRONE IN CAMELOT! I WOULD MIX A WITCH'S BREW FOR THE GULLIBLE FOOLS..."
NOW I SHALL READ THE FUTURE IN THE SWIRLING, MURKY CONCOCTION! AHA! ENEMIES APPROACH THY CASTLE, KING ARTHUR! TO ARMS! DEFEND THYSELF AGAINST A SNEAK ATTACK!
"THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE DID NOT KNOW I USED WITCH'S BREWS AND OTHER WEIRDLY DRAMATIC EFFECTS ONLY TO IMPRESS THEM! IT WAS I WHO POSSESSED THE POWERS, NOT THE SMELLY SOUPS I BREWED!"
BLESS MERLIN! IF NOT FOR HIS MAGIC FORESIGHT, WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN READY FOR THIS FOUL ASSAULT!
"NOT ONLY DID I POSSESS TELEPATHY... BUT UNIQUE POWERS OF LEVITATION!"
LOOK, MERLIN CAUSES THE CONTENDER TO FLY AND WHIRL ABOUT IN THE AIR! FANTASTIC!
THE PEOPLE ARE AWED, AMUSED, AND TERRIFIED BY WHAT THEY SEE! THE SUPERSTITIOUS NUMBSKULLS THINK I'M THE MASTER OF MAGIC, THE WIZARD OF WITCHCRAFT!
6

NOBODY IN MEDIEVAL TIMES SUSPECTED I WAS ONE OF THE MUTANTS ON EARTH... DERIVING MY POWERS NOT FROM ANY OCCULT MAGIC... BUT FROM WITHIN MY OWN BODY!
AND I WILL NEED NO SORCEROR'S HOCUS-POCUS IN 1963 TO WORK MY "MAGIC"! I HAVE THE REAL POWER TO LEVITATE MYSELF... PRACTICE TELE-PATHY AND TELEPORTATION...
...WITHIN LIMITS, OF COURSE, JUST AS I AM NOW TRANSFERRING MYSELF TO CAPE D'OR!
NEW SATELLITE TO BE FIRED INTO ORBIT TODAY AT CAPE D'OR!
HMMM... ALL MY UNIQUE SKILLS STILL WORK! BUT I MUST CONVINCE THIS GOVERNMENT OF THAT! FOR, JUST AS IN OLDEN TIMES, I INTEND TO BECOME THE REAL POWER BEHIND THE COUNTRY'S LEADER!
THE EYES OF THE ENTIRE WORLD ARE ON THE MISSILE WHICH THEY'RE FIRING INTO SPACE! IT WILL ATTRACT A LOT OF ATTENTION IF I CAUSE THE ROCKET TO CHANGE ITS COURSE!
HEY! SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE MISSILE TOOK A SUDDEN ZIG-ZAG!
IF THAT DARN THING GOES OFF COURSE, WE MAY HAVE TO PRESS THE DESTRUCT BUTTON AND BLOW IT TO SMITHEREENS!
HA! AFTER THEY'VE DESTROYED IT, I'LL COME FORWARD AND REVEAL THIS WAS JUST A SAMPLE OF THE THINGS I CAN DO IF I'M NOT GIVEN THE POWER I SEEK!
MISSILE CONTROL ROOM
AT THAT MOMENT, AS DR. BLAKE WATCHES THE LAUNCHING ON HIS OFFICE TV SET...
HOLD YOUR BREATH, FOLKS! IT'LL BE A TERRIBLE LOSS TO THE U.S. IF THAT VALUABLE MISSILE MUST BE DESTROYED!
IT WON'T BE, IF I CAN BECOME THOR IN TIME, THEN ZIP INTO THE SKY AND FIND SOME WAY TO PUT THAT ROCKET INTO PROPER ORBIT!
THUMP!

SECONDS LATER, AS U.S. ARMY PURSUIT PLANES WATCH THOR STREAK SPACEWARD...

HOLD EVERYTHING! **THOR** IS ADJUSTING THE CAPSULE'S TRAJECTORY! THE ALTITUDE ANGLE IS NOW OKAY!

THERE SEEMS TO BE NO MECHANICAL FAILURE! SOME OUTSIDE FORCE MUST HAVE AFFECTED THIS ROCKET! CAN IT BE--**LOKI!??**

SOON AFTER, AS THOR FLIES TO ASGARD, HOME OF THE NORSE GODS...

YOU WASTED YOUR TIME, THOR! **THIS** TIME I'M NOT GUILTY! NOT THAT I WOULDN'T **LIKE** TO MAKE MANKIND MISERABLE... BUT THE REAL CULPRIT HAPPENS TO BE **MERLIN!**

YOU'RE **WRONG,** LOKI! MERLIN LIES IN A CRYPT AT THE MUSEUM, DEAD AS A DOORNAIL!

NOT SO! HE'S TRICKED EVERYBODY FOR 1000 YEARS! HE'S AS ALIVE AS **YOU** ARE! I'VE BEEN WATCHING HIM FOR THE PAST HOUR! HE'S AT CAPE D'OR RIGHT **NOW!**

GREAT ODIN!! IF MERLIN'S ALIVE, I'VE GOT MY WORK CUT OUT FOR ME! WITH HIS FANTASTIC POWERS, HE COULD BE A TERRIBLE MENACE TO THE EARTH!

WITHIN MINUTES, THOR STREAKS TO THE MUSEUM TO CHECK ON LOKI'S TIP...

IT'S **TRUE,** THOR! MERLIN **HAS** VANISHED... AND WE CAN'T ACCOUNT FOR HIS WEIRD "RESURRECTION"!

BECAUSE HE **WASN'T** DEAD TO BEGIN WITH! HMM... SO FOR **ONCE,** LOKI TOLD THE TRUTH! I MUST FIND MERLIN BEFORE HE HAS GONE TOO FAR TO STOP!

BUT, AS THOR FLIES TO CAPE D'OR, MERLIN MATERIALIZES IN A WASHINGTON, D.C. POLICE STATION...

SINCE I OVERHEARD THAT IT WAS **THOR** WHO RUINED MY SCHEME, I MUST GET RID OF HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! IF I MATERIALIZE HERE, THE POLICE WILL SEND FOR THOR! THEN I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM... **FOR GOOD!**

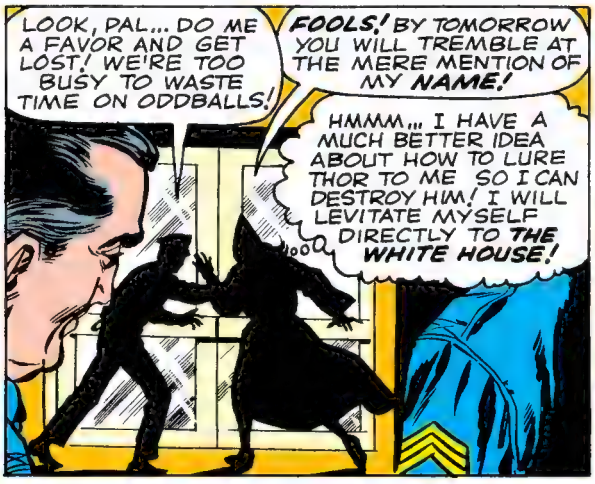
TURN, AND BEHOLD--**MERLIN!**

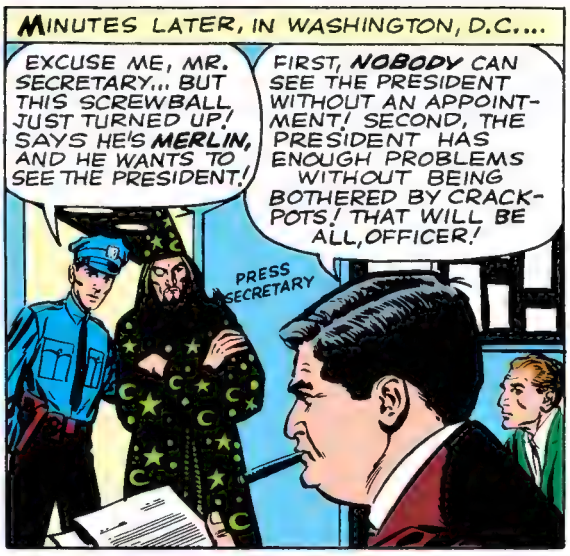
H-HUH?

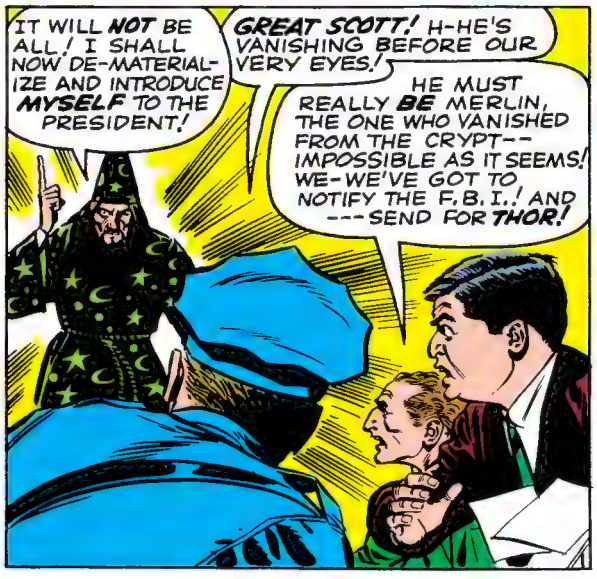
I REPEAT... I AM MERLIN! CONTACT **THOR** IMMEDIATELY AND TELL HIM I CHALLENGE HIM TO A DUEL OF POWERS!

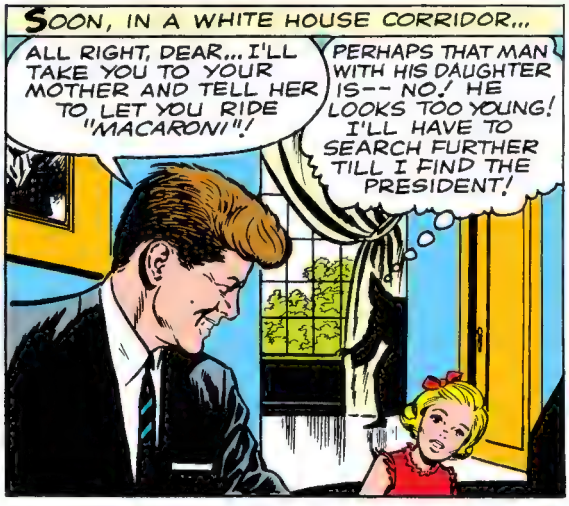
LISTEN TO THE NUT! THE "SILLY SEASON" MUST BE WITH US AGAIN!

YEAH! ALL SORTS OF CRANKS WILL START SHOWING UP SINCE THAT RADIO BROADCAST ANNOUNCED THAT THE BODY OF MERLIN WAS GONE FROM HIS CRYPT!


LOOK, PAL... DO ME A FAVOR AND GET LOST! WE'RE TOO BUSY TO WASTE TIME ON ODDBALLS!
FOOLS! BY TOMORROW YOU WILL TREMBLE AT THE MERE MENTION OF MY NAME!
HMMM... I HAVE A MUCH BETTER IDEA ABOUT HOW TO LURE THOR TO ME SO I CAN DESTROY HIM! I WILL LEVITATE MYSELF DIRECTLY TO THE WHITE HOUSE!


MINUTES LATER, IN WASHINGTON, D.C....
EXCUSE ME, MR. SECRETARY... BUT THIS SCREWBALL JUST TURNED UP! SAYS HE'S MERLIN, AND HE WANTS TO SEE THE PRESIDENT!
FIRST, NOBODY CAN SEE THE PRESIDENT WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT! SECOND, THE PRESIDENT HAS ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITHOUT BEING BOTHERED BY CRACKPOTS! THAT WILL BE ALL, OFFICER!
PRESS SECRETARY

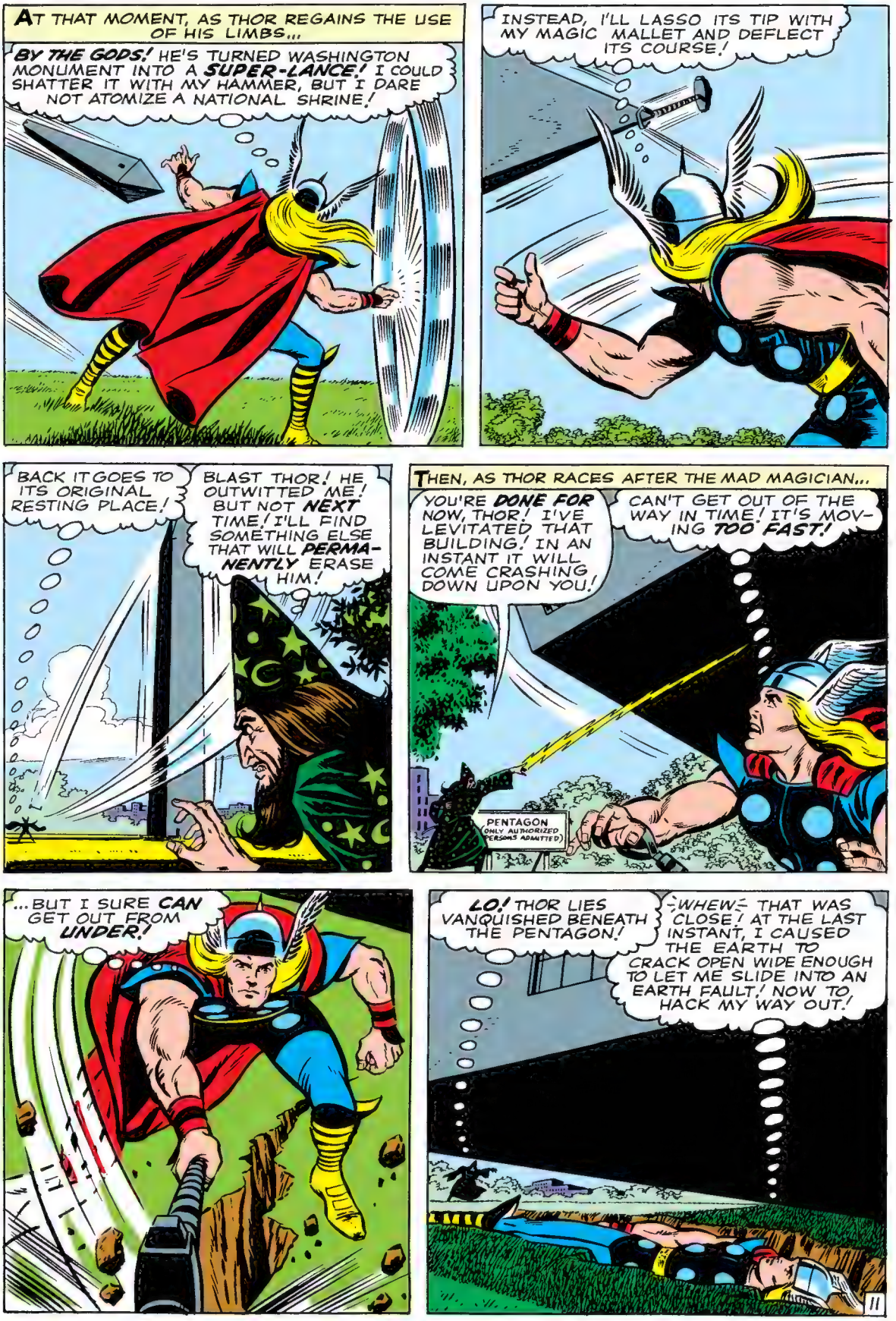

IT WILL NOT BE ALL! I SHALL NOW DE-MATERIALIZE AND INTRODUCE MYSELF TO THE PRESIDENT!
GREAT SCOTT! H-HE'S VANISHING BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!
HE MUST REALLY BE MERLIN, THE ONE WHO VANISHED FROM THE CRYPT-- IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SEEMS! WE-WE'VE GOT TO NOTIFY THE F.B.I.! AND ---SEND FOR THOR!

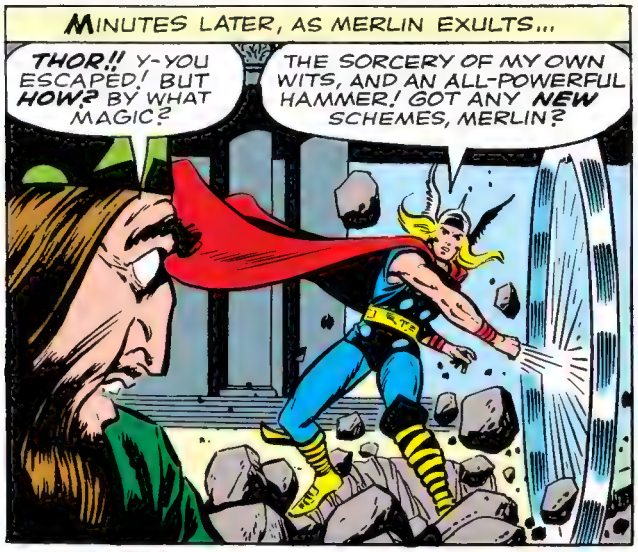

SOON, IN A WHITE HOUSE CORRIDOR...
ALL RIGHT, DEAR... I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR MOTHER AND TELL HER TO LET YOU RIDE "MACARONI"!
PERHAPS THAT MAN WITH HIS DAUGHTER IS-- NO! HE LOOKS TOO YOUNG! I'LL HAVE TO SEARCH FURTHER TILL I FIND THE PRESIDENT!

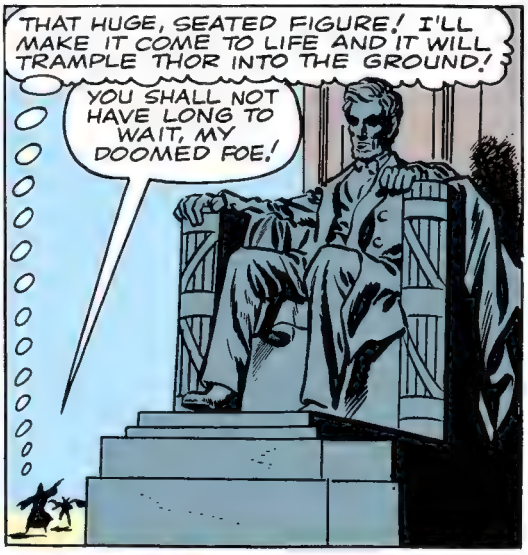
MEANWHILE, AT CAPE D'OR, THOR HEARS A STRANGE COAST-TO-COAST NEWS FLASH...
SO, THAT SUPER-NATURAL MADMAN IS SOMEWHERE IN THE WHITE HOUSE! I MUST GET THERE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

AND, FINALLY...
LOKI TOLD THE TRUTH! IT IS YOU, MERLIN!
AH, THE MIGHTY THOR! AT LAST I'M FACE TO FACE WITH THE ONE MAN I MUST ELIMINATE BEFORE BECOMING THE SUPREME POWER IN THIS TWENTIETH CENTURY!
K-RASH!

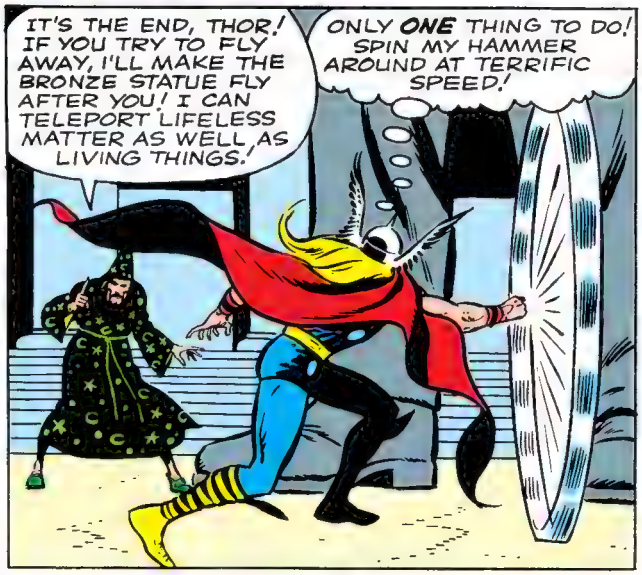
SORRY, MERLIN! YOU'RE GOING BACK TO THE CRYPT WHERE YOU BELONG!
SO, THOR! YOU HURL YOUR HAMMER AT ME! APPARENTLY YOU DON'T REALIZE THE SORT OF ANTAGONIST YOU'RE UP AGAINST!
YOU VANISHED! MY MAGIC HAMMER WENT THROUGH YOU, AS IF YOU WERE A GHOST!
BUT I'M NO GHOST, I ASSURE YOU! I SIMPLY HAVE TELE-PORTATION POWERS, WHICH I CAN ALSO TRANSMIT TO OTHERS!
YOU WON'T GET THE CHANCE, MERLIN... NOT AFTER I SEIZE YOU!
YOU'LL NEVER REACH ME, THOR! I'M CONCEN-TRATING... CONCENTRATING ...TO MAKE YOUR FEET STOP MOVING!
IT MAY TAKE ALL MY ENERGY... BUT I WILL STOP YOU... I WILL!!
THERE! YOU ARE ROOTED TO THE FLOOR... WHILE I ESCAPE AS FREE AS A BIRD! BY THE TIME YOUR "PARALYSIS" WEARS OFF, I'LL BE READY WITH THE WEAPON THAT WILL DESTROY YOU!
GREAT ODIN! HE MAY SUCCEED AT THAT! HIS POWER IS ALMOST EQUAL TO LOKI'S!
HOLY MACKERAL! LOOK AT THAT CHARACTER! HE'S APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE! AND--AND--
HMM... THE AMERICANS CALL THIS HUGE OBELISK WASHINGTON MONUMENT! JUST WHAT I NEED!
WASHINGTON MONUMENT
... FOR I WILL CONVERT IT INTO A JAVELIN THAT WILL FINISH THOR!


AT THAT MOMENT, AS THOR REGAINS THE USE OF HIS LIMBS...
BY THE GODS! HE'S TURNED WASHINGTON MONUMENT INTO A SUPER-LANCE! I COULD SHATTER IT WITH MY HAMMER, BUT I DARE NOT ATOMIZE A NATIONAL SHRINE!
INSTEAD, I'LL LASSO ITS TIP WITH MY MAGIC MALLET AND DEFLECT ITS COURSE!
BACK IT GOES TO ITS ORIGINAL RESTING PLACE!
BLAST THOR! HE OUTWITTED ME! BUT NOT NEXT TIME! I'LL FIND SOMETHING ELSE THAT WILL PERMANENTLY ERASE HIM!
THEN, AS THOR RACES AFTER THE MAD MAGICIAN...
YOU'RE DONE FOR NOW, THOR! I'VE LEVITATED THAT BUILDING! IN AN INSTANT IT WILL COME CRASHING DOWN UPON YOU!
CAN'T GET OUT OF THE WAY IN TIME! IT'S MOVING TOO FAST!
PENTAGON (ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONS ADMITTED)
...BUT I SURE CAN GET OUT FROM UNDER!
LO! THOR LIES VANQUISHED BENEATH THE PENTAGON!
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! AT THE LAST INSTANT, I CAUSED THE EARTH TO CRACK OPEN WIDE ENOUGH TO LET ME SLIDE INTO AN EARTH FAULT! NOW TO HACK MY WAY OUT!
11

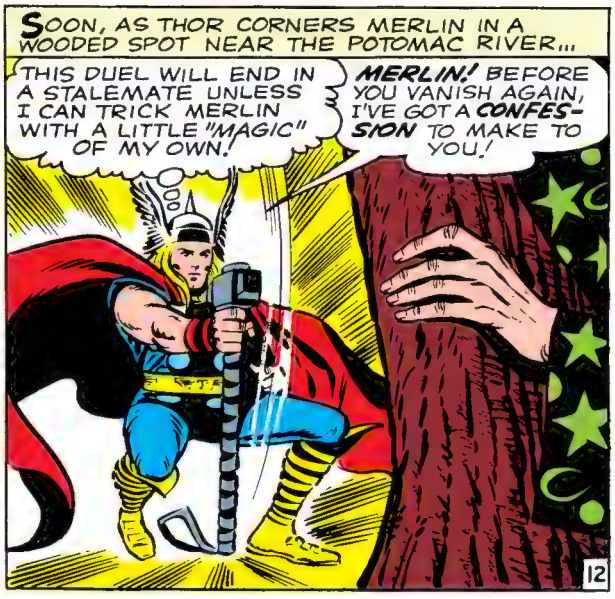

MINUTES LATER, AS MERLIN EXULTS...
THOR!! Y-YOU ESCAPED! BUT HOW? BY WHAT MAGIC?
THE SORCERY OF MY OWN WITS, AND AN ALL-POWERFUL HAMMER! GOT ANY NEW SCHEMES, MERLIN?


THAT HUGE, SEATED FIGURE! I'LL MAKE IT COME TO LIFE AND IT WILL TRAMPLE THOR INTO THE GROUND!
YOU SHALL NOT HAVE LONG TO WAIT, MY DOOMED FOE!

L-LOOK! LINCOLN'S STATUE IS GETTING UP!
IT'S COME TO LIFE! IT-IT'S MOVING!
FORWARD, MIGHTY STATUE! FORWARD, AND CRUSH THOR--AS I SHALL CRUSH ALL WHO DEFY ME!


IT'S THE END, THOR! IF YOU TRY TO FLY AWAY, I'LL MAKE THE BRONZE STATUE FLY AFTER YOU! I CAN TELEPORT LIFELESS MATTER AS WELL AS LIVING THINGS.
ONLY ONE THING TO DO! SPIN MY HAMMER AROUND AT TERRIFIC SPEED!

AHH! JUST AS I PLANNED! I'VE CREATED A FAN WHICH HAS ENOUGH FORCE TO BLOW "HONEST ABE" BACK ONTO HIS SEAT!
BAH!! IS THERE NOTHING HE CANNOT DO TO WRECK MY PLANS?
PLOP!

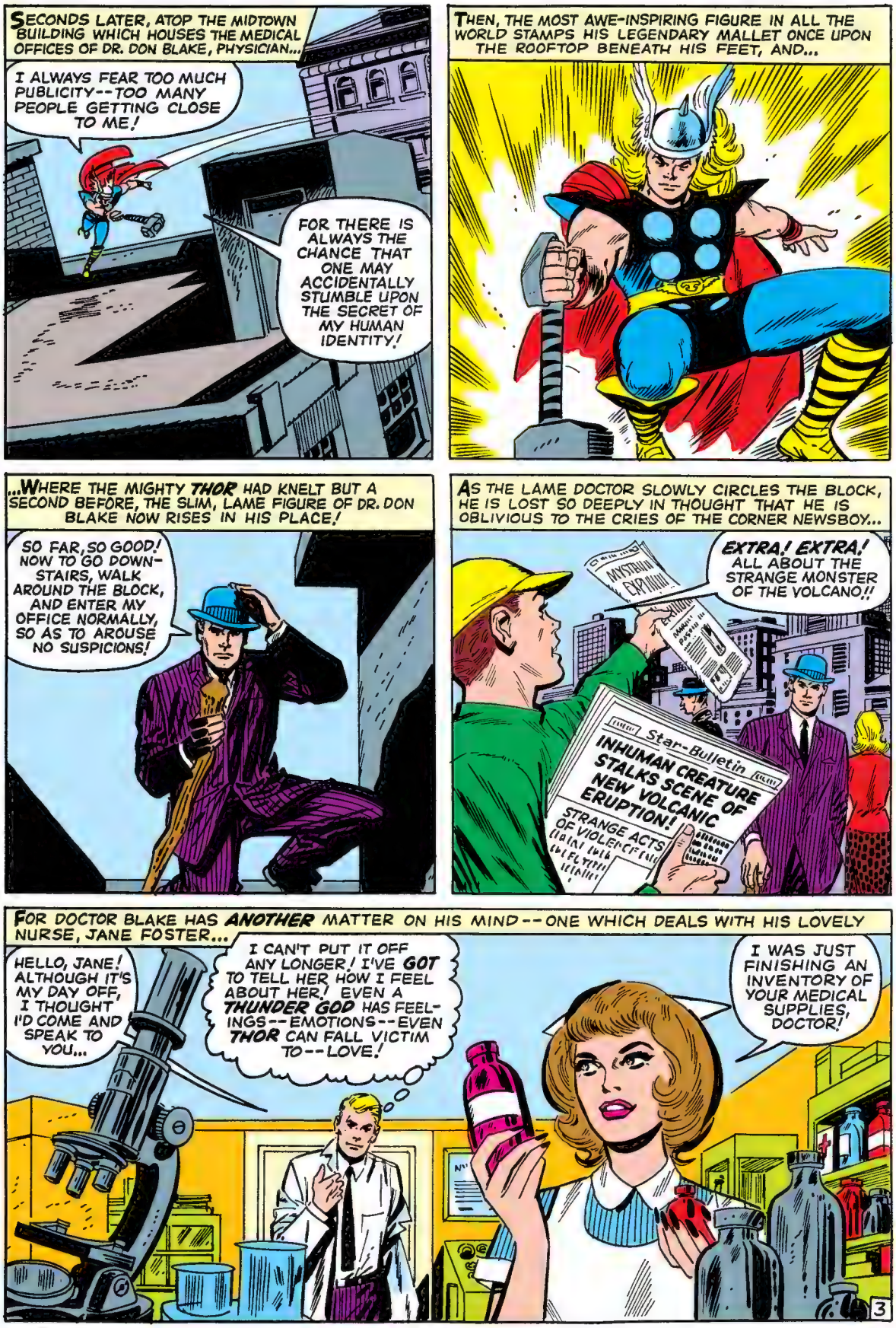

SOON, AS THOR CORNERS MERLIN IN A WOODED SPOT NEAR THE POTOMAC RIVER...
THIS DUEL WILL END IN A STALEMATE UNLESS I CAN TRICK MERLIN WITH A LITTLE "MAGIC" OF MY OWN.
MERLIN! BEFORE YOU VANISH AGAIN, I'VE GOT A CONFESSION TO MAKE TO YOU!

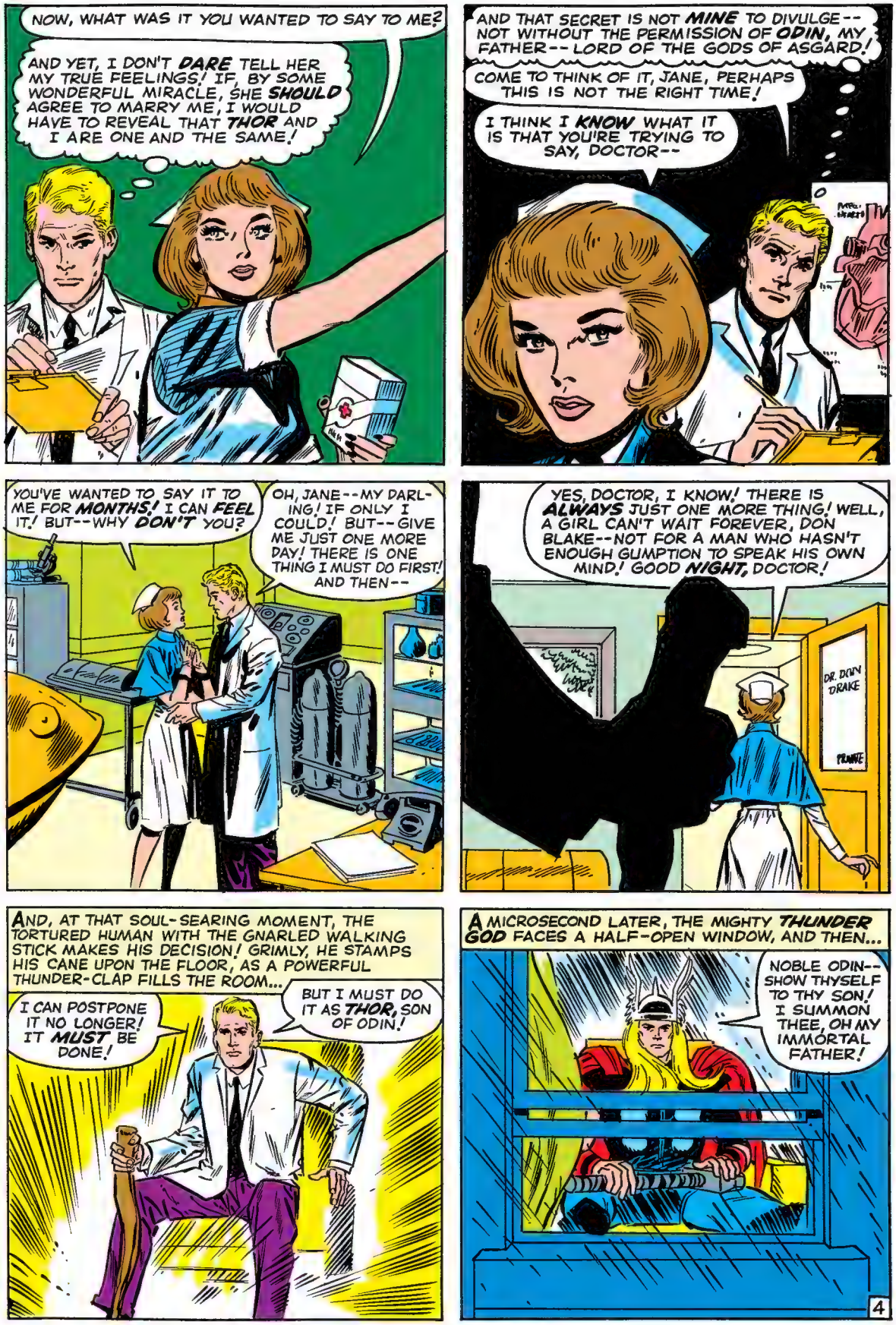
IF MERLIN SEES THROUGH MY RUSE, I'M FINISHED! BUT IT'S JUST POSSIBLE I MIGHT WIN THIS LIFE-AND-DEATH GAMBLE RIGHT NOW!
YOU-YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR SHAPE! YOU'VE BECOME AN ORDINARY HUMAN--AND YOUR HAMMER HAS BECOME A WALKING STICK!
CORRECT! BUT THIS IS ONLY ONE OF A THOUSAND FORMS I CAN ASSUME, MERLIN! FOR MY MAGIC IS TEN TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN YOURS! IF I SO DESIRE, I CAN DESTROY YOU RIGHT NOW!
NO! NO!... STOP!! WAIT!
IT WORKED! MERLIN KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT MY SECRET IDENTITY! HE BELIEVES I CAN CHANGE MYSELF INTO ANYTHING!
VERY WELL, MERLIN! I'LL LET YOU LIVE! BUT ONLY ON CONDITION YOU DO EXACTLY AS I SAY!
I'LL DO ANYTHING, THOR! ANYTHING!
THEN RETURN TO YOUR CRYPT AND CAST ANOTHER SPELL, OR WHATEVER IT WAS THAT ENABLED YOU TO SLEEP FOR CENTURIES! THE STONE LID WILL BE SEALED OVER YOUR BODY WHILE YOU SLEEP FOR ANOTHER THOUSAND YEARS!
HOW DO I KNOW YOU WILL NOT SLAY ME WHILE I AM HELPLESS?
YOU HAVE THOR'S WORD! BUT REMEMBER... IF YOU SHOULD EVER AWAKEN TO MENACE MANKIND, I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU... AND I VOW TO SHOW YOU NO MERCY!
SO BE IT, MIGHTY THOR! I'LL RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO MY CRYPT!
A HALF HOUR LATER, AT THE MUSEUM...
WE DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, THOR, BUT SUDDENLY WE LOOKED INTO THE CRYPT AND THERE WAS MERLIN INSIDE AGAIN, DEAD TO THE WORLD!
CONSIDER YOURSELVES LUCKY HE'S NOT ON THE LOOSE, AND SEAL THIS CRYPT FOREVER! SOMETIMES THERE ARE THINGS SCIENCE CAN'T EXPLAIN!
13
THAT NIGHT, IN A HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOM...
WELL, I MUST ADMIT THAT IF YOU DO LOSE A FEW PATIENTS AT THE OFFICE, YOU LOSE NO ONE AT THE OPERATING TABLE! AS A SURGEON, DR. BLAKE, YOU'RE A MAGICIAN!
THANKS, JANE...
YOU DON'T KNOW IT, HONEY, BUT THERE'S MORE TRUTH THAN FICTION TO WHAT YOU SAID!
THE END

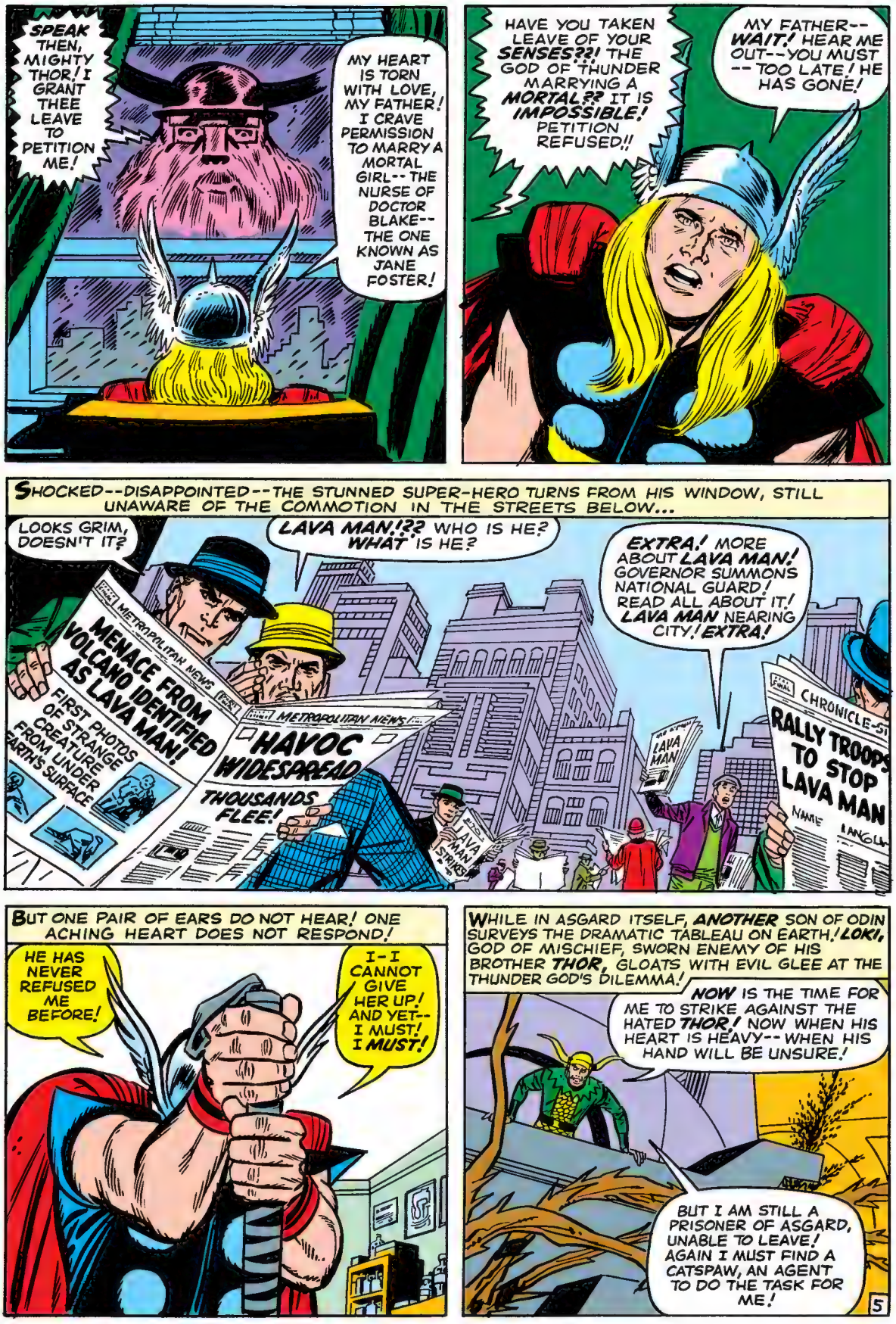
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
IND.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢
97
OCT.
SUPER SPECIAL ISSUE!
LEE AND KIRBY COMBINE TALENTS TO BRING YOU MIGHTY THOR BATTLING THE AMAZING LAVA MAN!
Also: BEGINNING IN THIS ISSUE:
"TALES OF ASGARD"
FANTASY AND LEGEND FROM THE HOME OF THE MIGHTY THOR!

THE MIGHTY THOR!
BATTLES...
THE LAVA MAN
THAT JET FIGHTER IS IN TROUBLE! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE IT CRASHES INTO THE CITY!
WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE
DRAWN BY:
JACK KIRBY
INKED BY:
DON HECK
LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK
SWINGING HIS ENCHANTED MALLET, AND HOLDING FAST TO THE UNBREAKABLE THONG, THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD TAKES TO THE AIR!
X-422
THE PILOT HAS BLACKED OUT! HIS OXYGEN SUPPLY WAS FAULTY!
1

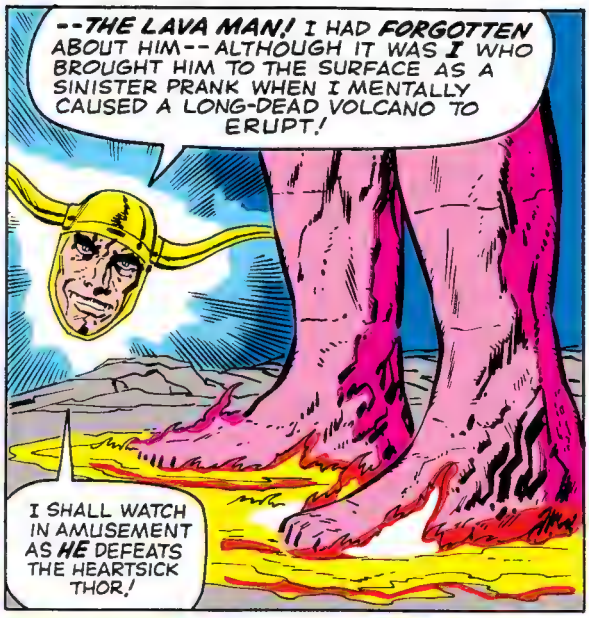
NO MATTER HOW INGENIOUS MORTALS ARE, THERE IS ALWAYS A CHANCE OF HUMAN ERROR!
BUT, SO IT IS WITH ALL OF LIFE! EVEN WE GODS OF ASGARD ARE NOT TRULY PERFECT!
THERE! I'VE FREED HIM IN TIME! NOW TO SET UP AN IRRESISTIBLE WIND CURRENT TO BLOW THE PLANE SAFELY OUT TO SEA!
THOR! YOU SAVED THE PILOT--AND PREVENTED THE PLANE FROM CRASHING INTO THE CITY!
QUICKLY--HE NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION!
WE'LL TAKE OVER NOW, THOR! YOU'VE DONE YOUR SHARE!
BOY, WHAT A STORY! "THOR SAVES PILOT IN MID-AIR!"
I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU, THOR! HOW--HOW CAN I EVER--??
SAY NO MORE! IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO OWE MUCH TO SUCH AS YOU FOR GUARDING OUR SHORES!
AND THEN, THE MIGHTY THOR, THE POWERFUL, DAUNTLESS GOD OF THUNDER WHO FEARS NOTHING THAT LIVES, NOTHING THAT BREATHES, RACES FROM THE SCENE NERVOUSLY BEFORE THE ONSLAUGHT OF HERO-WORSHIPPING REPORTERS AND WELL-WISHERS!
NO! DON'T CLOSE IN ON ME! I CAN'T BE SURROUNDED! I MUST HAVE SPACE --ROOM TO MOVE!
WE'RE TOO LATE! HE'S TAKIN' TO THE AIR AGAIN!
THOR, WAIT! WE WANT SOME MORE PICTURES OF YOU IN ACTION!
HOLD IT! HOW ABOUT AN INTERVIEW?? COME BACK!
2

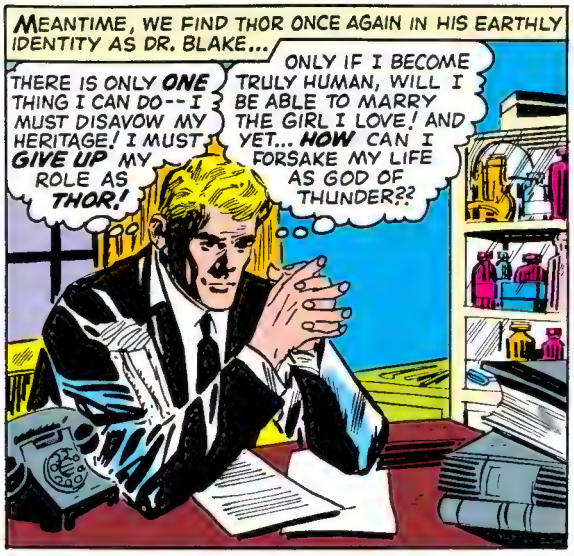

SECONDS LATER, ATOP THE MIDTOWN BUILDING WHICH HOUSES THE MEDICAL OFFICES OF DR. DON BLAKE, PHYSICIAN...
I ALWAYS FEAR TOO MUCH PUBLICITY--TOO MANY PEOPLE GETTING CLOSE TO ME!
FOR THERE IS ALWAYS THE CHANCE THAT ONE MAY ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLE UPON THE SECRET OF MY HUMAN IDENTITY!
THEN, THE MOST AWE-INSPIRING FIGURE IN ALL THE WORLD STAMPS HIS LEGENDARY MALLET ONCE UPON THE ROOFTOP BENEATH HIS FEET, AND...
...WHERE THE MIGHTY THOR HAD KNELT BUT A SECOND BEFORE, THE SLIM, LAME FIGURE OF DR. DON BLAKE NOW RISES IN HIS PLACE!
SO FAR, SO GOOD! NOW TO GO DOWN-STAIRS, WALK AROUND THE BLOCK, AND ENTER MY OFFICE NORMALLY, SO AS TO AROUSE NO SUSPICIONS!
AS THE LAME DOCTOR SLOWLY CIRCLES THE BLOCK, HE IS LOST SO DEEPLY IN THOUGHT THAT HE IS OBLIVIOUS TO THE CRIES OF THE CORNER NEWSBOY...
EXTRA! EXTRA! ALL ABOUT THE STRANGE MONSTER OF THE VOLCANO!!
Star-Bulletin
INHUMAN CREATURE STALKS SCENE OF NEW VOLCANIC ERUPTION!
STRANGE ACTS OF VIOLENCE
FOR DOCTOR BLAKE HAS ANOTHER MATTER ON HIS MIND--ONE WHICH DEALS WITH HIS LOVELY NURSE, JANE FOSTER...
HELLO, JANE! ALTHOUGH IT'S MY DAY OFF, I THOUGHT I'D COME AND SPEAK TO YOU...
I CAN'T PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER! I'VE GOT TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL ABOUT HER! EVEN A THUNDER GOD HAS FEELINGS--EMOTIONS--EVEN THOR CAN FALL VICTIM TO--LOVE!
I WAS JUST FINISHING AN INVENTORY OF YOUR MEDICAL SUPPLIES, DOCTOR!
3

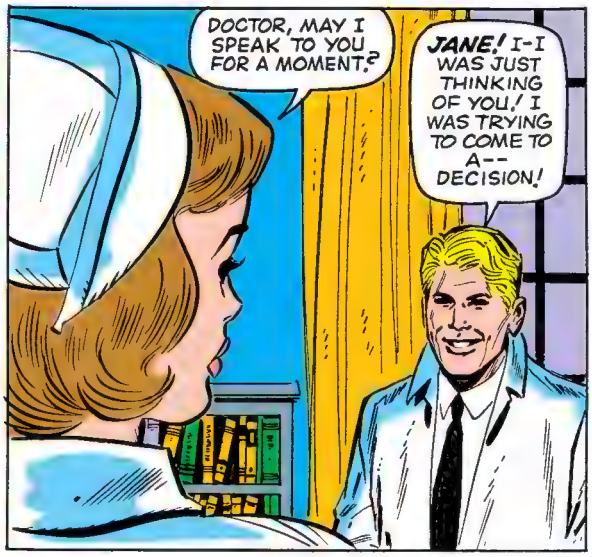

NOW, WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO SAY TO ME?
AND YET, I DON'T DARE TELL HER MY TRUE FEELINGS! IF, BY SOME WONDERFUL MIRACLE, SHE SHOULD AGREE TO MARRY ME, I WOULD HAVE TO REVEAL THAT THOR AND I ARE ONE AND THE SAME!
AND THAT SECRET IS NOT MINE TO DIVULGE--NOT WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF ODIN, MY FATHER--LORD OF THE GODS OF ASGARD!
COME TO THINK OF IT, JANE, PERHAPS THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT TIME!
I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY, DOCTOR--
YOU'VE WANTED TO SAY IT TO ME FOR MONTHS! I CAN FEEL IT! BUT--WHY DON'T YOU?
OH, JANE--MY DARLING! IF ONLY I COULD! BUT--GIVE ME JUST ONE MORE DAY! THERE IS ONE THING I MUST DO FIRST! AND THEN--
YES, DOCTOR, I KNOW! THERE IS ALWAYS JUST ONE MORE THING! WELL, A GIRL CAN'T WAIT FOREVER, DON BLAKE--NOT FOR A MAN WHO HASN'T ENOUGH GUMPTION TO SPEAK HIS OWN MIND! GOOD NIGHT, DOCTOR!
DR. DON DRAKE
AND, AT THAT SOUL-SEARING MOMENT, THE TORTURED HUMAN WITH THE GNARLED WALKING STICK MAKES HIS DECISION! GRIMLY, HE STAMPS HIS CANE UPON THE FLOOR, AS A POWERFUL THUNDER-CLAP FILLS THE ROOM...
I CAN POSTPONE IT NO LONGER! IT MUST BE DONE!
BUT I MUST DO IT AS THOR, SON OF ODIN!
A MICROSECOND LATER, THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD FACES A HALF-OPEN WINDOW, AND THEN...
NOBLE ODIN--SHOW THYSELF TO THY SON! I SUMMON THEE, OH MY IMMORTAL FATHER!
4


SPEAK THEN, MIGHTY THOR! I GRANT THEE LEAVE TO PETITION ME!
MY HEART IS TORN WITH LOVE, MY FATHER! I CRAVE PERMISSION TO MARRY A MORTAL GIRL-- THE NURSE OF DOCTOR BLAKE-- THE ONE KNOWN AS JANE FOSTER!
HAVE YOU TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR SENSES??! THE GOD OF THUNDER MARRYING A MORTAL?? IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! PETITION REFUSED!!
MY FATHER-- WAIT! HEAR ME OUT--YOU MUST --TOO LATE! HE HAS GONE!
SHOCKED--DISAPPOINTED--THE STUNNED SUPER-HERO TURNS FROM HIS WINDOW, STILL UNAWARE OF THE COMMOTION IN THE STREETS BELOW...
LOOKS GRIM, DOESN'T IT?
LAVA MAN!?? WHO IS HE? WHAT IS HE?
EXTRA! MORE ABOUT LAVA MAN! GOVERNOR SUMMONS NATIONAL GUARD! READ ALL ABOUT IT! LAVA MAN NEARING CITY! EXTRA!
METROPOLITAN NEWS
MENACE FROM VOLCANO IDENTIFIED AS LAVA MAN!
FIRST PHOTOS OF STRANGE CREATURE FROM UNDER EARTH'S SURFACE
HAVOC WIDESPREAD
THOUSANDS FLEE!
LAVA MAN STRIKES
LAVA MAN
RALLY TROOPS TO STOP LAVA MAN
BUT ONE PAIR OF EARS DO NOT HEAR! ONE ACHING HEART DOES NOT RESPOND!
HE HAS NEVER REFUSED ME BEFORE!
I-I CANNOT GIVE HER UP! AND YET-- I MUST! I MUST!
WHILE IN ASGARD ITSELF, ANOTHER SON OF ODIN SURVEYS THE DRAMATIC TABLEAU ON EARTH! LOKI, GOD OF MISCHIEF, SWORN ENEMY OF HIS BROTHER THOR, GLOATS WITH EVIL GLEE AT THE THUNDER GOD'S DILEMMA!
NOW IS THE TIME FOR ME TO STRIKE AGAINST THE HATED THOR! NOW WHEN HIS HEART IS HEAVY-- WHEN HIS HAND WILL BE UNSURE!
BUT I AM STILL A PRISONER OF ASGARD, UNABLE TO LEAVE! AGAIN I MUST FIND A CATSPAW, AN AGENT TO DO THE TASK FOR ME!
5

BUT WAIT--THAT DEVASTATED AREA BELOW! IT IS THE WORK OF A NEW MENACE WHO HAS APPEARED UPON EARTH! A MENACE KNOWN AS--

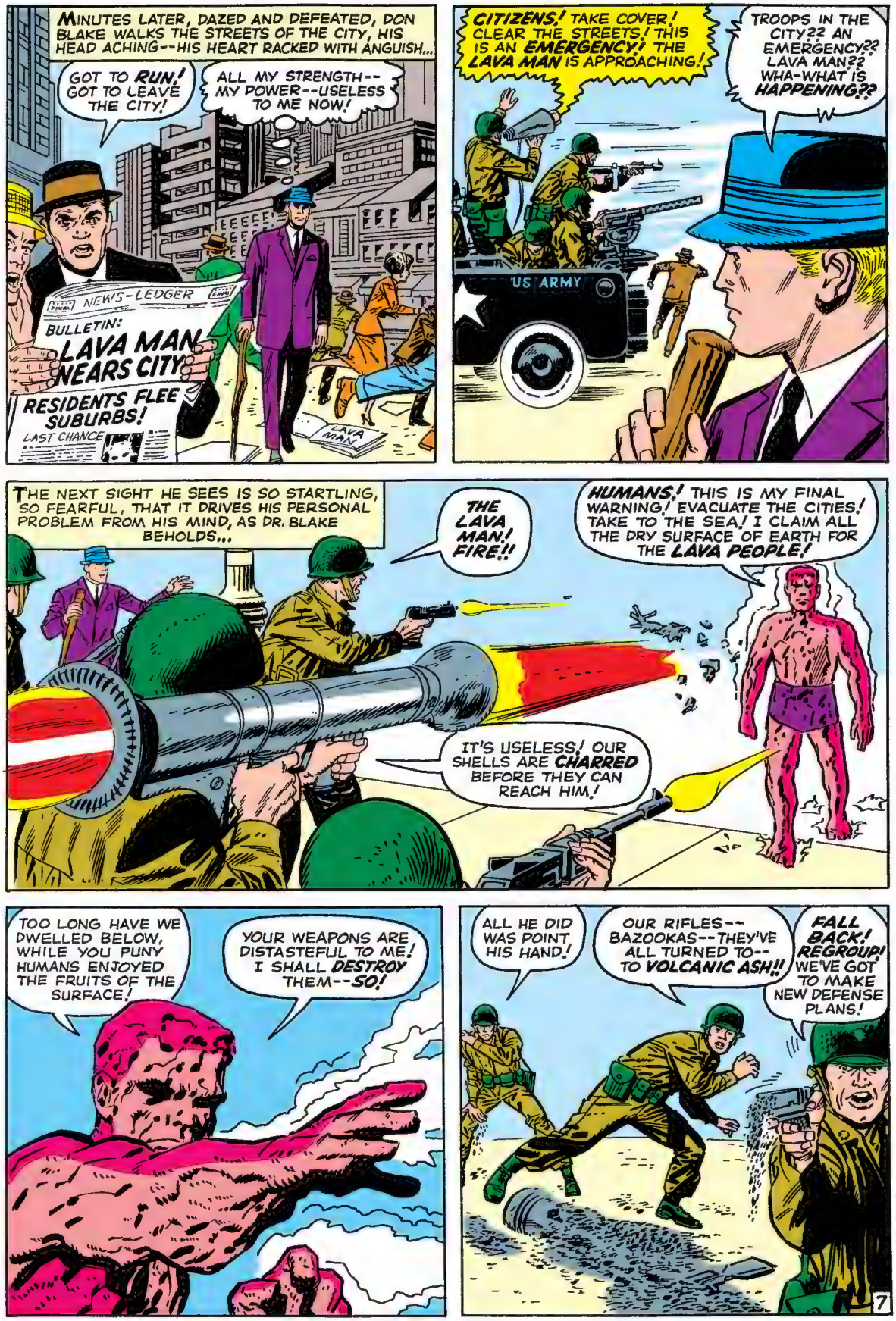

--THE LAVA MAN! I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM--ALTHOUGH IT WAS I WHO BROUGHT HIM TO THE SURFACE AS A SINISTER PRANK WHEN I MENTALLY CAUSED A LONG-DEAD VOLCANO TO ERUPT!
I SHALL WATCH IN AMUSEMENT AS HE DEFEATS THE HEARTSICK THOR!

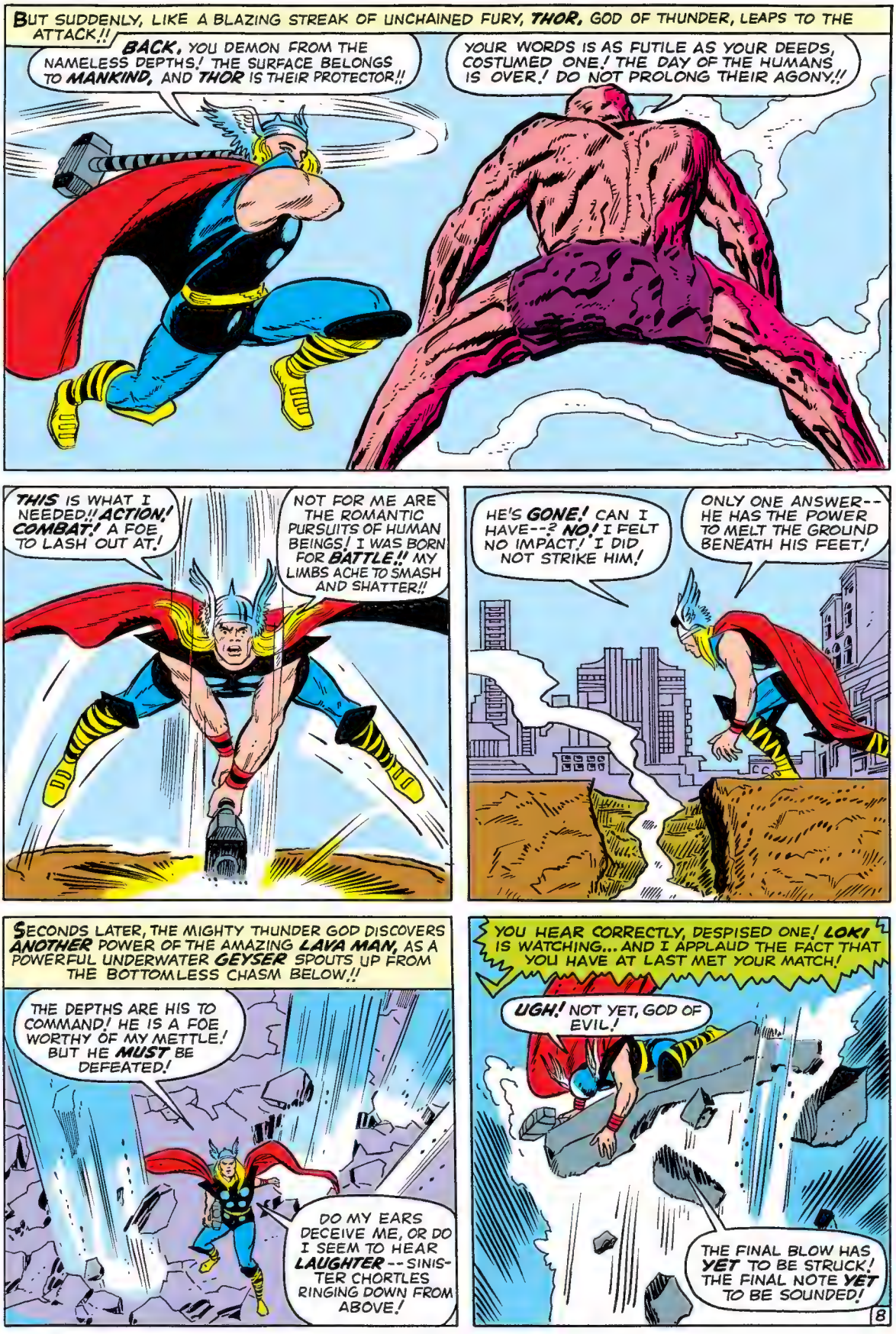

MEANTIME, WE FIND THOR ONCE AGAIN IN HIS EARTHLY IDENTITY AS DR. BLAKE...
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO--I MUST DISAVOW MY HERITAGE! I MUST GIVE UP MY ROLE AS THOR!
ONLY IF I BECOME TRULY HUMAN, WILL I BE ABLE TO MARRY THE GIRL I LOVE! AND YET... HOW CAN I FORSAKE MY LIFE AS GOD OF THUNDER??

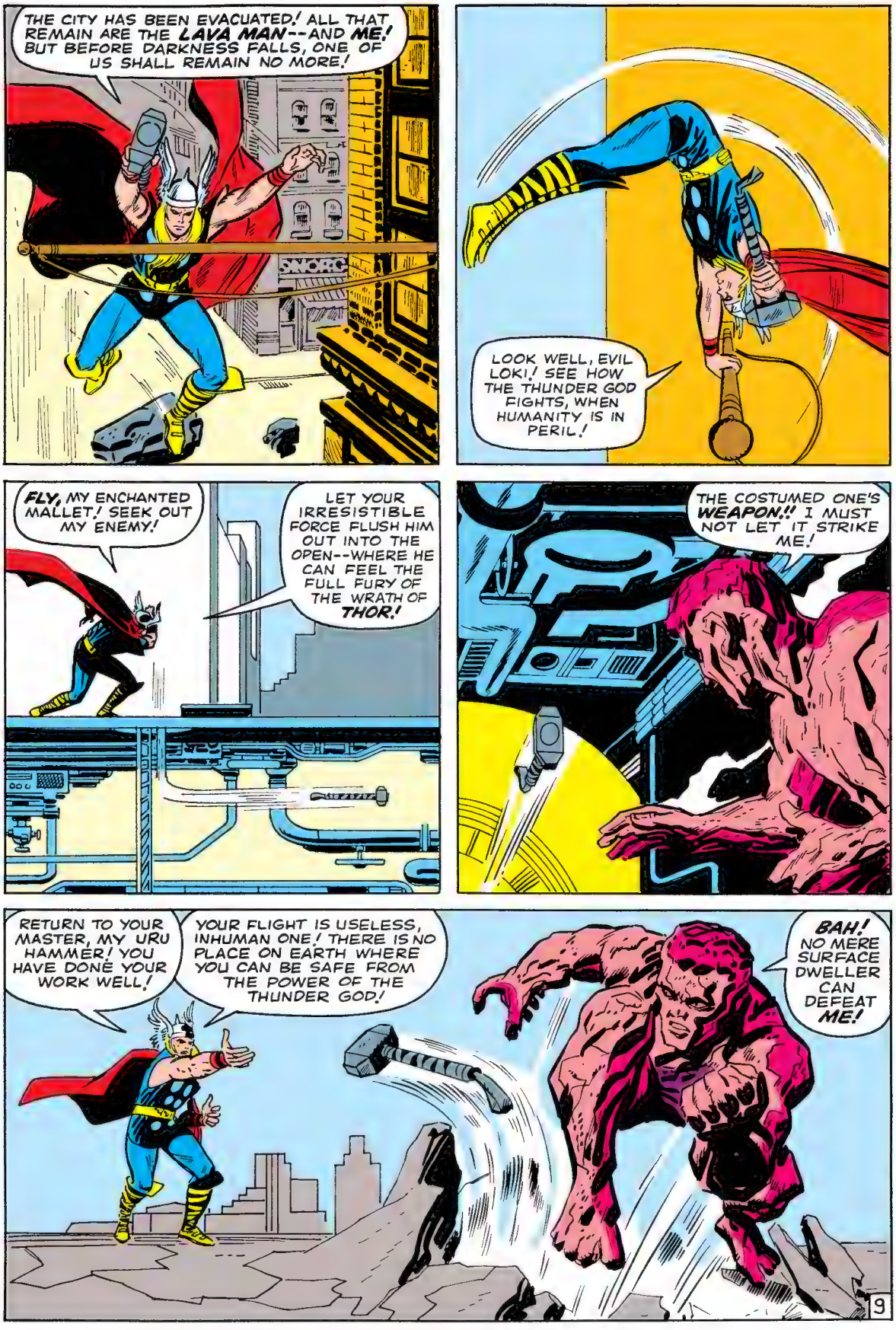

DOCTOR, MAY I SPEAK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT?
JANE! I-I WAS JUST THINKING OF YOU! I WAS TRYING TO COME TO A-- DECISION!

I'M AFRAID IT'S TOO LATE FOR ANY DECISIONS NOW, DOCTOR!
I'M LEAVING! I HAVE ACCEPTED A POSITION AS NURSE WITH DOCTOR BASIL ANDREWS!
ANDREWS! THAT WOLF WHO HAS ALWAYS TRIED TO DATE YOU--TO TAKE YOU FROM ME!! WHY? WHY, JANE??

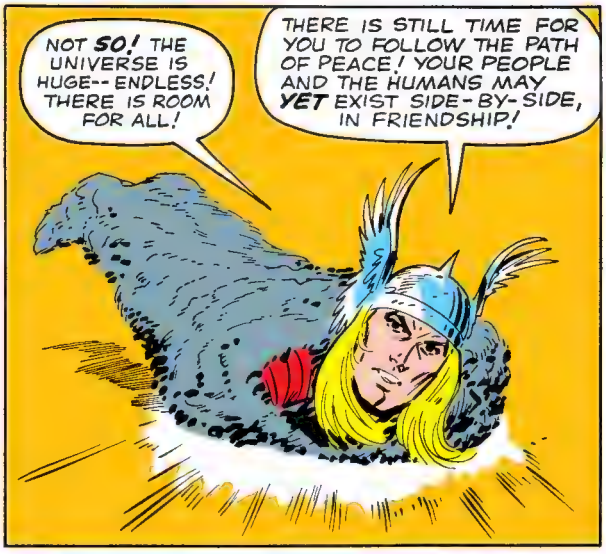
BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT YOU WANTED TO ASK ME, DON! AND I KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU! AND--I WON'T TAKE THE CHANCE--THE CHANCE OF SAYING "YES" TO--A MAN WHO IS TOO WEAK TO SPEAK HIS MIND!
THEN--THIS IS GOODBYE, JANE!


MINUTES LATER, DAZED AND DEFEATED, DON BLAKE WALKS THE STREETS OF THE CITY, HIS HEAD ACHING--HIS HEART RACKED WITH ANGUISH...
GOT TO RUN! GOT TO LEAVE THE CITY!
ALL MY STRENGTH--MY POWER--USELESS TO ME NOW!
NEWS-LEDGER
BULLETIN:
LAVA MAN NEARS CITY
RESIDENTS FLEE SUBURBS!
LAST CHANCE
LAVA MAN
CITIZENS! TAKE COVER! CLEAR THE STREETS! THIS IS AN EMERGENCY! THE LAVA MAN IS APPROACHING!
TROOPS IN THE CITY?? AN EMERGENCY?? LAVA MAN?? WHA-WHAT IS HAPPENING??
US ARMY
THE NEXT SIGHT HE SEES IS SO STARTLING, SO FEARFUL, THAT IT DRIVES HIS PERSONAL PROBLEM FROM HIS MIND, AS DR. BLAKE BEHOLDS...
THE LAVA MAN! FIRE!!
HUMANS! THIS IS MY FINAL WARNING! EVACUATE THE CITIES! TAKE TO THE SEA! I CLAIM ALL THE DRY SURFACE OF EARTH FOR THE LAVA PEOPLE!
IT'S USELESS! OUR SHELLS ARE CHARRED BEFORE THEY CAN REACH HIM!
TOO LONG HAVE WE DWELLED BELOW, WHILE YOU PUNY HUMANS ENJOYED THE FRUITS OF THE SURFACE!
YOUR WEAPONS ARE DISTASTEFUL TO ME! I SHALL DESTROY THEM--SO!
ALL HE DID WAS POINT HIS HAND!
OUR RIFLES--BAZOOKAS--THEY'VE ALL TURNED TO--TO VOLCANIC ASH!!
FALL BACK! REGROUP! WE'VE GOT TO MAKE NEW DEFENSE PLANS!

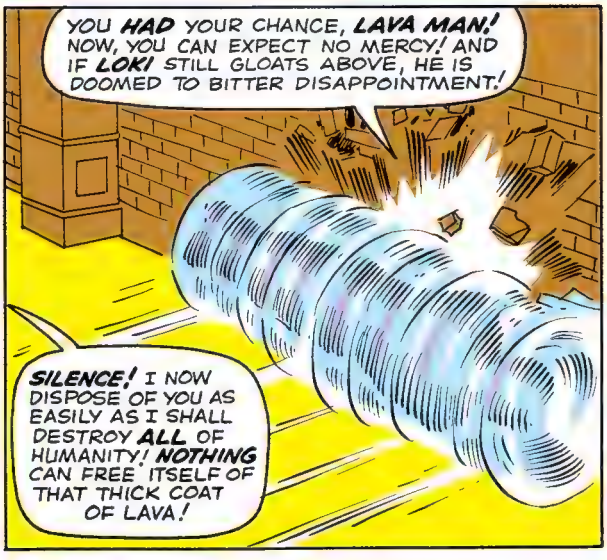

BUT SUDDENLY, LIKE A BLAZING STREAK OF UNCHAINED FURY, THOR, GOD OF THUNDER, LEAPS TO THE ATTACK!!
BACK, YOU DEMON FROM THE NAMELESS DEPTHS! THE SURFACE BELONGS TO MANKIND, AND THOR IS THEIR PROTECTOR!!
YOUR WORDS IS AS FUTILE AS YOUR DEEDS, COSTUMED ONE! THE DAY OF THE HUMANS IS OVER! DO NOT PROLONG THEIR AGONY!!
THIS IS WHAT I NEEDED!! ACTION! COMBAT! A FOE TO LASH OUT AT!
NOT FOR ME ARE THE ROMANTIC PURSUITS OF HUMAN BEINGS! I WAS BORN FOR BATTLE!! MY LIMBS ACHE TO SMASH AND SHATTER!!
HE'S GONE! CAN I HAVE--? NO! I FELT NO IMPACT! I DID NOT STRIKE HIM!
ONLY ONE ANSWER-- HE HAS THE POWER TO MELT THE GROUND BENEATH HIS FEET!
SECONDS LATER, THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD DISCOVERS ANOTHER POWER OF THE AMAZING LAVA MAN, AS A POWERFUL UNDERWATER GEYSER SPOUTS UP FROM THE BOTTOMLESS CHASM BELOW!!
THE DEPTHS ARE HIS TO COMMAND! HE IS A FOE WORTHY OF MY METTLE! BUT HE MUST BE DEFEATED!
DO MY EARS DECEIVE ME, OR DO I SEEM TO HEAR LAUGHTER -- SINISTER CHORTLES RINGING DOWN FROM ABOVE!
YOU HEAR CORRECTLY, DESPISED ONE! LOKI IS WATCHING... AND I APPLAUD THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE AT LAST MET YOUR MATCH!
UGH! NOT YET, GOD OF EVIL!
THE FINAL BLOW HAS YET TO BE STRUCK! THE FINAL NOTE YET TO BE SOUNDED!
8


THE CITY HAS BEEN EVACUATED! ALL THAT REMAIN ARE THE LAVA MAN--AND ME! BUT BEFORE DARKNESS FALLS, ONE OF US SHALL REMAIN NO MORE!
LOOK WELL, EVIL LOKI! SEE HOW THE THUNDER GOD FIGHTS, WHEN HUMANITY IS IN PERIL!
FLY, MY ENCHANTED MALLET! SEEK OUT MY ENEMY!
LET YOUR IRRESISTIBLE FORCE FLUSH HIM OUT INTO THE OPEN--WHERE HE CAN FEEL THE FULL FURY OF THE WRATH OF THOR!
THE COSTUMED ONE'S WEAPON!! I MUST NOT LET IT STRIKE ME!
RETURN TO YOUR MASTER, MY URU HAMMER! YOU HAVE DONE YOUR WORK WELL!
YOUR FLIGHT IS USELESS, INHUMAN ONE! THERE IS NO PLACE ON EARTH WHERE YOU CAN BE SAFE FROM THE POWER OF THE THUNDER GOD!
BAH! NO MERE SURFACE DWELLER CAN DEFEAT ME!

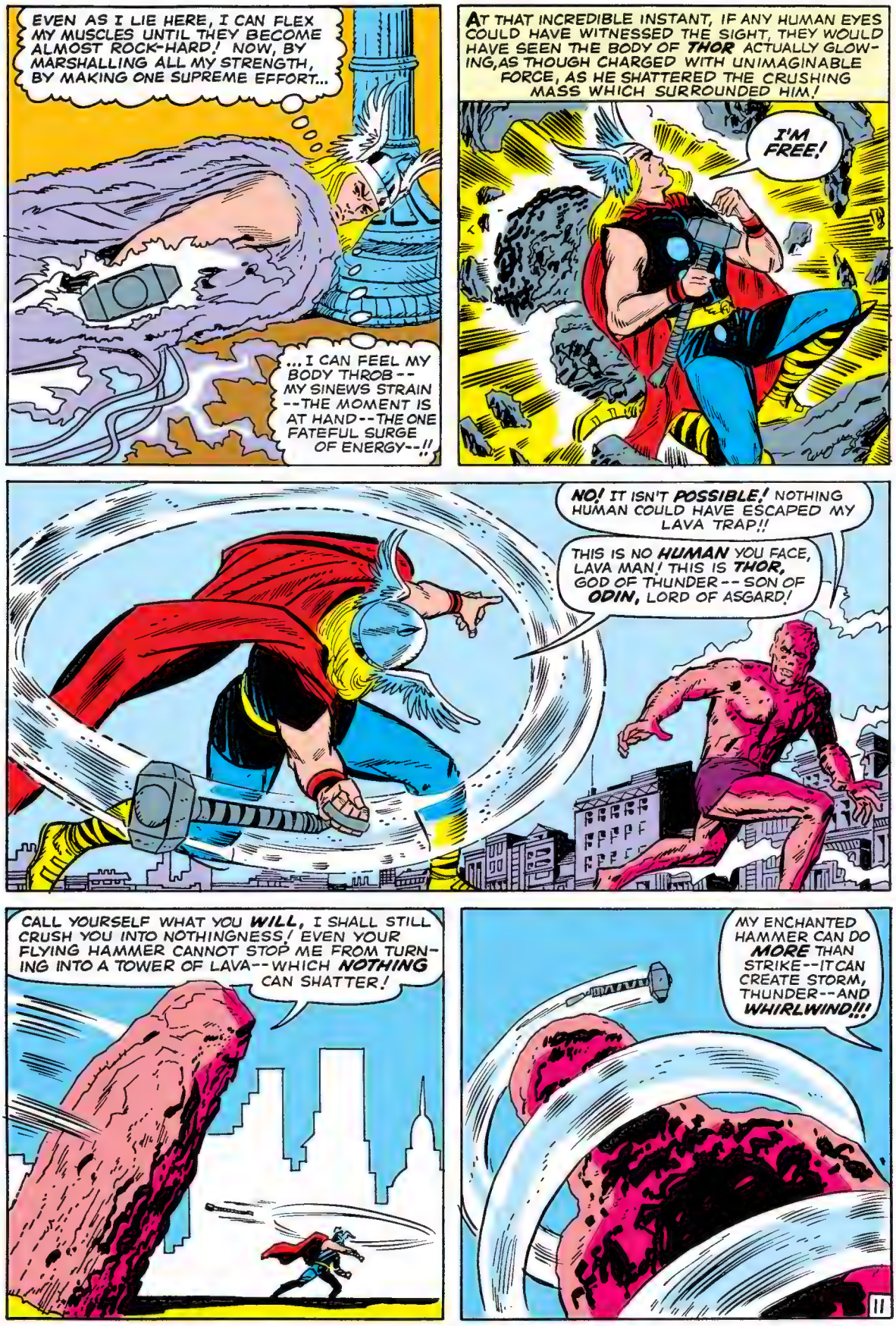
OBSERVE, HELPLESS THOR! NOTE HOW HIS POWER IS ALMOST LIMITLESS! SEE HOW HE HURLS A MASS OF QUICK-DRYING, CLINGING LAVA AT YOU!
LET HIM HURL WHAT HE WILL, LOKI! I WELCOME HIS ATTACK! FOR MY HEART LONGS FOR BATTLE!
YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR CAUSE, MIGHTY ONE! BUT I FIGHT FOR MINE! MY PEOPLE HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO CLAIM EARTH'S SURFACE FOR THEIR OWN!

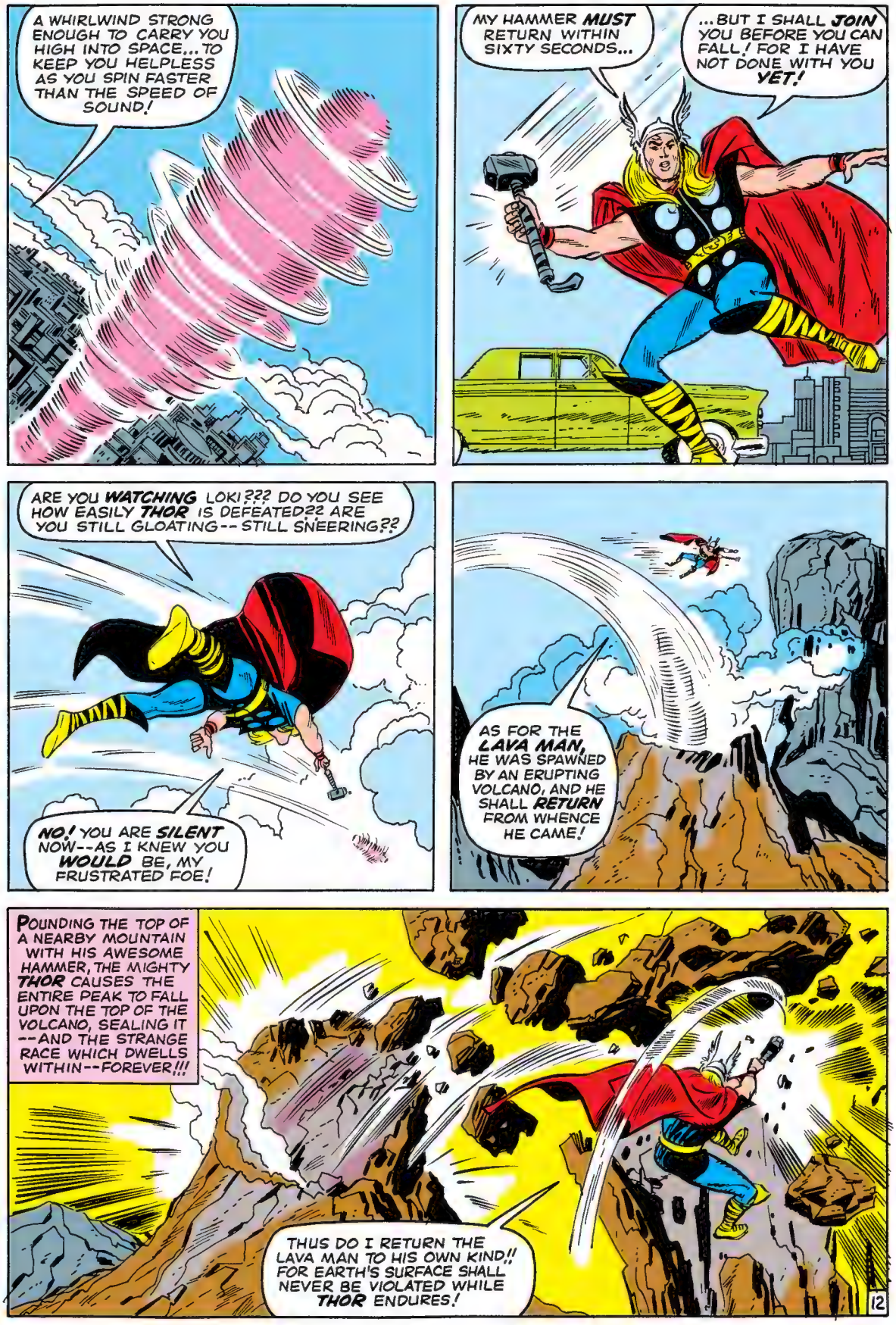

NOT SO! THE UNIVERSE IS HUGE--ENDLESS! THERE IS ROOM FOR ALL!
THERE IS STILL TIME FOR YOU TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF PEACE! YOUR PEOPLE AND THE HUMANS MAY YET EXIST SIDE-BY-SIDE, IN FRIENDSHIP!

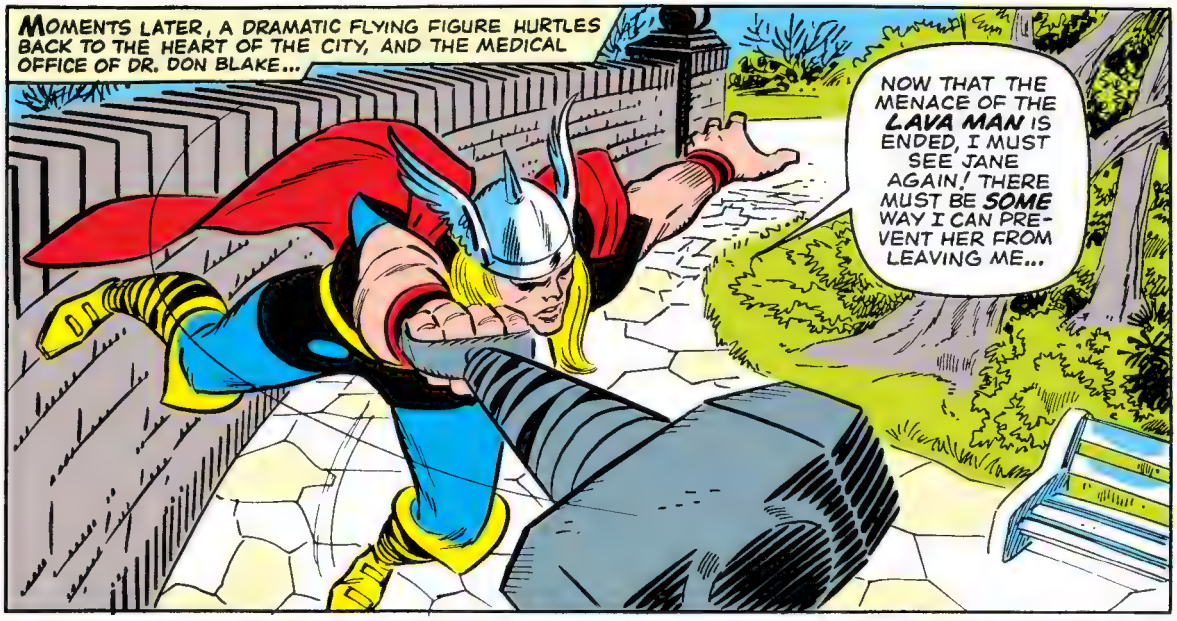
NEVER! HUMANITY IS WEAK! IT CANNOT DEFEND ITSELF! IT HAS NO PLACE ON EARTH!
ONLY THE STRONG SHALL SURVIVE! JUST AS I AM STRONG --AND YOU ARE DEFEATED!

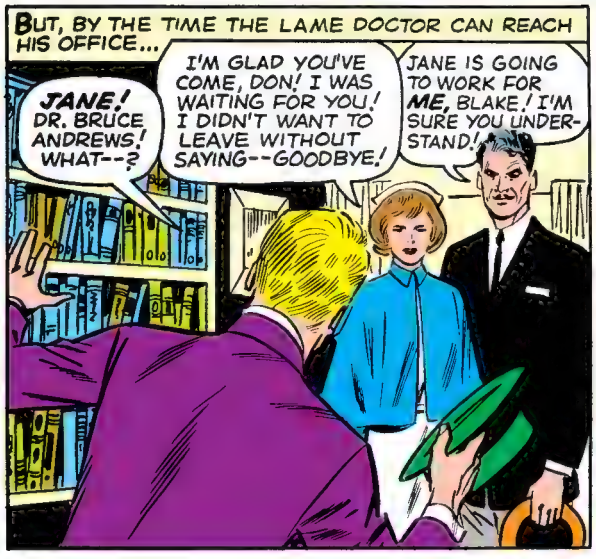

YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE, LAVA MAN! NOW, YOU CAN EXPECT NO MERCY! AND IF LOKI STILL GLOATS ABOVE, HE IS DOOMED TO BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT!
SILENCE! I NOW DISPOSE OF YOU AS EASILY AS I SHALL DESTROY ALL OF HUMANITY! NOTHING CAN FREE ITSELF OF THAT THICK COAT OF LAVA!

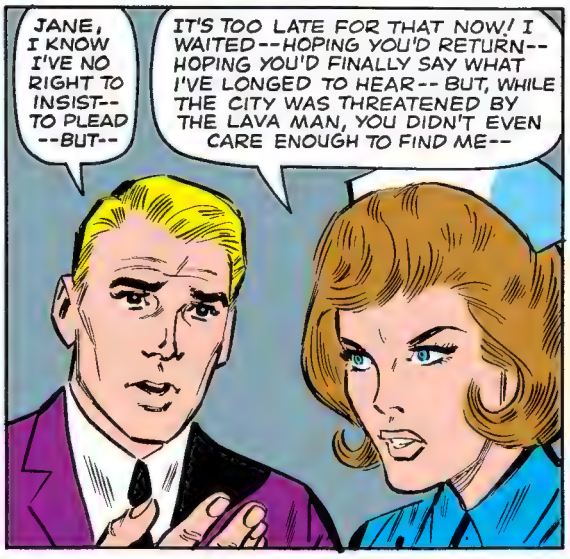
NOW THAT I HAVE STILLED HIS EMPTY WORDS, I CAN TURN TO THE TASK AT HAND! I MUST LEAD MY PEOPLE TO THE SURFACE, SO THAT WE MAY TAKE POSSESSION OF ALL THE EARTH!
FOR YEARS MEN HAVE ACCLAIMED MY MIGHT! NOW, AS NEVER BEFORE, MUST IT PROVE ITSELF!

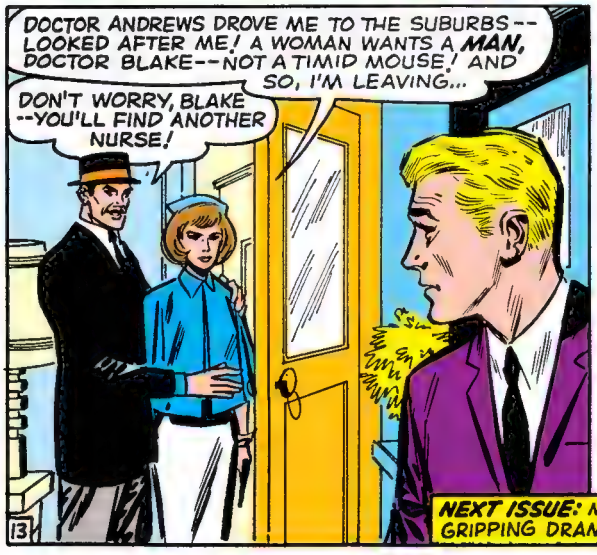

EVEN AS I LIE HERE, I CAN FLEX MY MUSCLES UNTIL THEY BECOME ALMOST ROCK-HARD! NOW, BY MARSHALLING ALL MY STRENGTH, BY MAKING ONE SUPREME EFFORT...
...I CAN FEEL MY BODY THROB -- MY SINEWS STRAIN --THE MOMENT IS AT HAND--THE ONE FATEFUL SURGE OF ENERGY--!!
AT THAT INCREDIBLE INSTANT, IF ANY HUMAN EYES COULD HAVE WITNESSED THE SIGHT, THEY WOULD HAVE SEEN THE BODY OF THOR ACTUALLY GLOWING, AS THOUGH CHARGED WITH UNIMAGINABLE FORCE, AS HE SHATTERED THE CRUSHING MASS WHICH SURROUNDED HIM!
I'M FREE!
NO! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! NOTHING HUMAN COULD HAVE ESCAPED MY LAVA TRAP!!
THIS IS NO HUMAN YOU FACE, LAVA MAN! THIS IS THOR, GOD OF THUNDER -- SON OF ODIN, LORD OF ASGARD!
CALL YOURSELF WHAT YOU WILL, I SHALL STILL CRUSH YOU INTO NOTHINGNESS! EVEN YOUR FLYING HAMMER CANNOT STOP ME FROM TURNING INTO A TOWER OF LAVA--WHICH NOTHING CAN SHATTER!
MY ENCHANTED HAMMER CAN DO MORE THAN STRIKE--IT CAN CREATE STORM, THUNDER--AND WHIRLWIND!!!

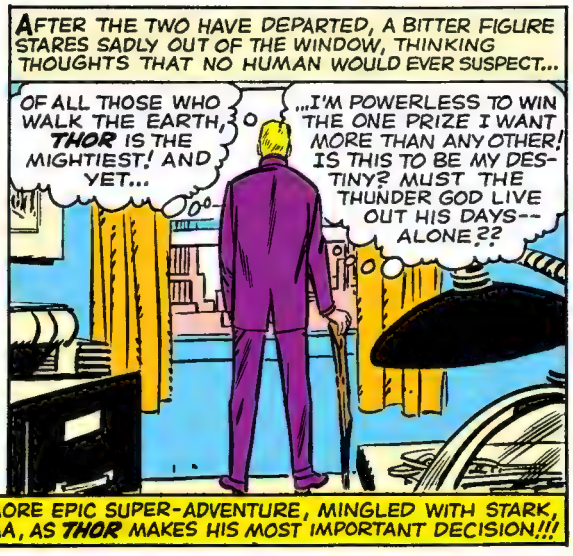

A WHIRLWIND STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY YOU HIGH INTO SPACE... TO KEEP YOU HELPLESS AS YOU SPIN FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF SOUND!
MY HAMMER MUST RETURN WITHIN SIXTY SECONDS...
...BUT I SHALL JOIN YOU BEFORE YOU CAN FALL! FOR I HAVE NOT DONE WITH YOU YET!
ARE YOU WATCHING LOKI??? DO YOU SEE HOW EASILY THOR IS DEFEATED?? ARE YOU STILL GLOATING--STILL SNEERING??
NO! YOU ARE SILENT NOW--AS I KNEW YOU WOULD BE, MY FRUSTRATED FOE!
AS FOR THE LAVA MAN, HE WAS SPAWNED BY AN ERUPTING VOLCANO, AND HE SHALL RETURN FROM WHENCE HE CAME!
POUNDING THE TOP OF A NEARBY MOUNTAIN WITH HIS AWESOME HAMMER, THE MIGHTY THOR CAUSES THE ENTIRE PEAK TO FALL UPON THE TOP OF THE VOLCANO, SEALING IT --AND THE STRANGE RACE WHICH DWELLS WITHIN--FOREVER!!!
THUS DO I RETURN THE LAVA MAN TO HIS OWN KIND!! FOR EARTH'S SURFACE SHALL NEVER BE VIOLATED WHILE THOR ENDURES!
12


MOMENTS LATER, A DRAMATIC FLYING FIGURE HURTLES BACK TO THE HEART OF THE CITY, AND THE MEDICAL OFFICE OF DR. DON BLAKE...
NOW THAT THE MENACE OF THE LAVA MAN IS ENDED, I MUST SEE JANE AGAIN! THERE MUST BE SOME WAY I CAN PREVENT HER FROM LEAVING ME...


BUT, BY THE TIME THE LAME DOCTOR CAN REACH HIS OFFICE...
JANE! DR. BRUCE ANDREWS! WHAT--?
I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME, DON! I WAS WAITING FOR YOU! I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING--GOODBYE!
JANE IS GOING TO WORK FOR ME, BLAKE! I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND!


JANE, I KNOW I'VE NO RIGHT TO INSIST--TO PLEAD --BUT--
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW! I WAITED--HOPING YOU'D RETURN--HOPING YOU'D FINALLY SAY WHAT I'VE LONGED TO HEAR--BUT, WHILE THE CITY WAS THREATENED BY THE LAVA MAN, YOU DIDN'T EVEN CARE ENOUGH TO FIND ME--


DOCTOR ANDREWS DROVE ME TO THE SUBURBS--LOOKED AFTER ME! A WOMAN WANTS A MAN, DOCTOR BLAKE--NOT A TIMID MOUSE! AND SO, I'M LEAVING...
DON'T WORRY, BLAKE --YOU'LL FIND ANOTHER NURSE!
13


AFTER THE TWO HAVE DEPARTED, A BITTER FIGURE STARES SADLY OUT OF THE WINDOW, THINKING THOUGHTS THAT NO HUMAN WOULD EVER SUSPECT...
OF ALL THOSE WHO WALK THE EARTH, THOR IS THE MIGHTIEST! AND YET...
...I'M POWERLESS TO WIN THE ONE PRIZE I WANT MORE THAN ANY OTHER! IS THIS TO BE MY DESTINY? MUST THE THUNDER GOD LIVE OUT HIS DAYS--ALONE??

NEXT ISSUE: MORE EPIC SUPER-ADVENTURE, MINGLED WITH STARK, GRIPPING DRAMA, AS **THOR** MAKES HIS MOST IMPORTANT DECISION!!!

TALES OF...
...ASGARD!
HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS
BEFORE MAN COULD READ OR WRITE, HE HAD HIS LEGENDS! AND NO LEGENDS WERE MORE THRILLING, MORE COLORFUL, MORE FILLED WITH FANTASY AND HIGH ADVENTURE THAN THE LEGENDS OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE GODS! THUS, WITH GREAT PRIDE, WE PRESENT THIS NEW, TREND-SETTING SERIES, BASED UPON HIGHLIGHTS OF NORSE MYTHOLOGY--TALES OF ASGARD, THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE MIGHTY THOR!!
WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE
DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY
INKED BY: G. BELL
LETTERED BY: ART SIMEK

HEROIC LEGENDS CAN ONLY ORIGINATE FROM A HEROIC PEOPLE...AND NONE WERE MORE HEROIC THAN THE ANCIENT NORSEMEN WHO STRUGGLED VALIANTLY AGAINST WILD BEASTS AND WILDER WEATHER!

NO NORSEMAN COULD EVER RELAX HIS VIGIL! ALMOST DAILY, THE HARDY FARMERS AND THEIR WOMENFOLK WERE FORCED TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST SAVAGE RAIDERS FROM THE MOUNTAINS!

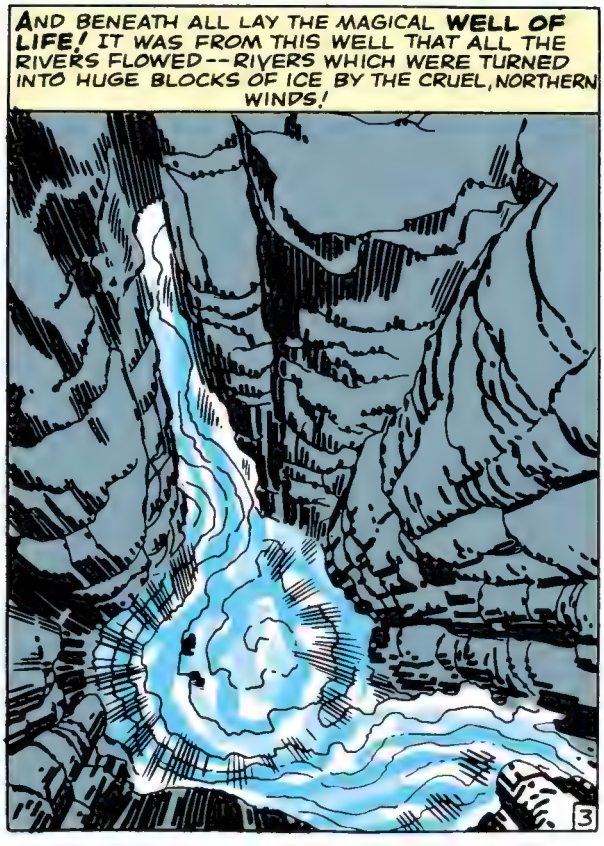
AND THOSE WHO TURNED TO THE SEA WERE THE MOST FEARLESS OF ALL! THEIR COURAGE AND DARING WILL LIVE ON AS LONG AS MEN TELL OF VALOR--FOR WHO AMONG US HAS NOT THRILLED TO THE TALES OF THE ANCIENT VIKINGS?!!

YES, SUCH ARE THE NORSEMEN...THE BRAVE, STOUT-HEARTED WARRIORS WHO CHANTED THE LEGENDS OF ASGARD AROUND THEIR CAMPFIRES --WHO CREATED HEROES AND GODS AND DEMONS WHICH STILL FIRE THE IMAGINATION OF MEN!

TO THE NORSEMEN, THEIR LEGENDARY CHARACTERS WERE EITHER ALL GOOD OR ALL BAD! THEIR GOOD GODS WERE CALLED THE ÆSIR--AND THEY FOUGHT FOR AGES AGAINST THE TOTALLY EVIL FROST GIANTS!

AND THE PLACE WHERE THEY DWELLED WAS BOUNDED BY THE LAND OF FIRE ON THE SOUTH, AND THE LAND OF MIST ON THE NORTH!

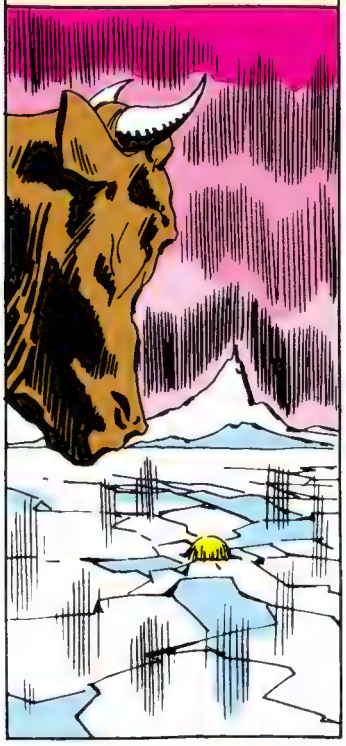
AT THE WORLD'S END SAT SURTUR, THE DEMON OF FIRE, WHO WAITED, WITH HIS FLAMING SWORD, FOR THE END OF THE WORLD, WHEN HE MIGHT GO FORTH TO DESTROY GODS AND MEN ALIKE!


AND BENEATH ALL LAY THE MAGICAL WELL OF LIFE! IT WAS FROM THIS WELL THAT ALL THE RIVERS FLOWED--RIVERS WHICH WERE TURNED INTO HUGE BLOCKS OF ICE BY THE CRUEL, NORTHERN WINDS!

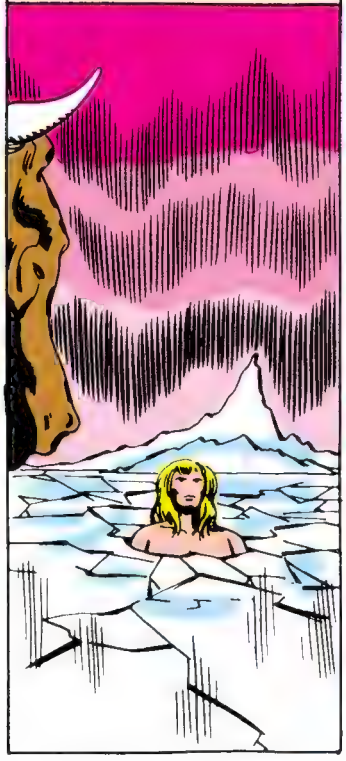
FINALLY, AFTER COUNTLESS CENTURIES, A STRANGE FORM OF **LIFE** MAGICALLY APPEARED! THE TONS OF ICE WHICH HAD BEEN FORMING ABOVE THE **WELL OF LIFE** CHANGED THEIR SHAPE, AND TURNED INTO **YMIR,** GREATEST OF ALL THE EVIL **FROST GIANTS!**

SECONDS LATER, **ANOTHER** FORM OF LIFE APPEARED -- THIS WAS A GIGANTIC MAGIC **COW,** WHOSE MILK PROVIDED NOURISHMENT FOR THE MONSTROUS **YMIR!** AND, FOR AGES, **YMIR** AND THE MAGIC COW ROAMED THE FROZEN WASTES, UNTIL...

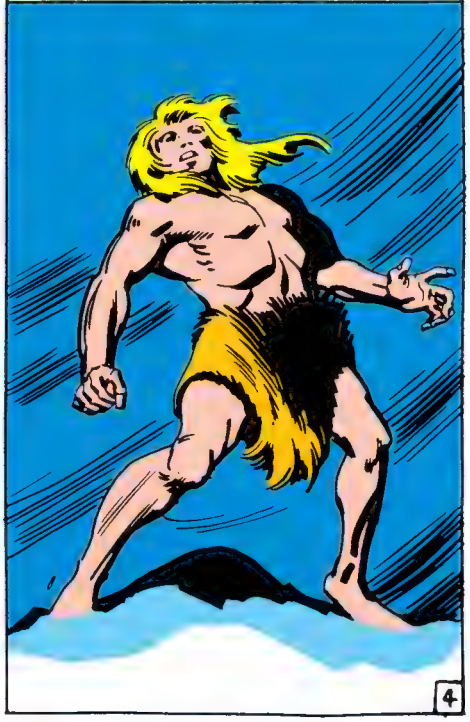
...**O**NE DAY THE MAGIC COW FOUND SOMETHING STIRRING IN THE ICE! AT FIRST, IT WAS UNRECOGNIZABLE...



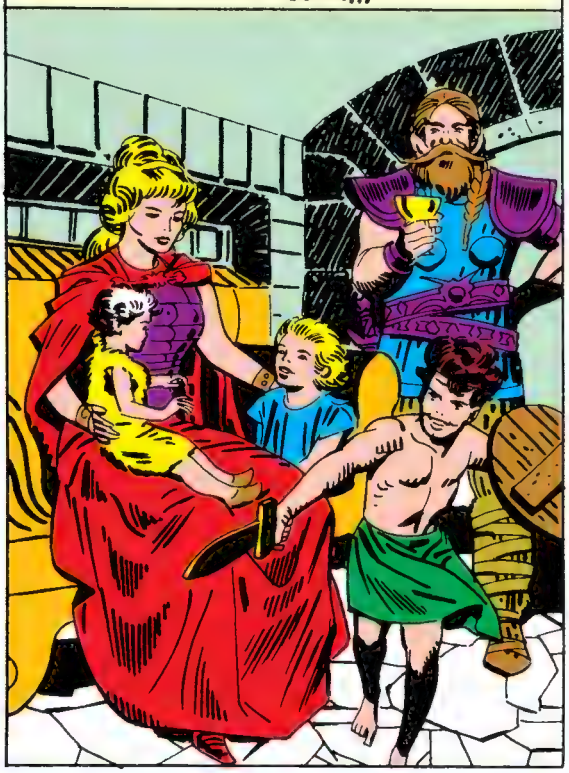
...**B**UT THEN, SLOWLY, POWERFULLY, A NOBLE **HEAD** APPEARED ABOVE THE ICE...



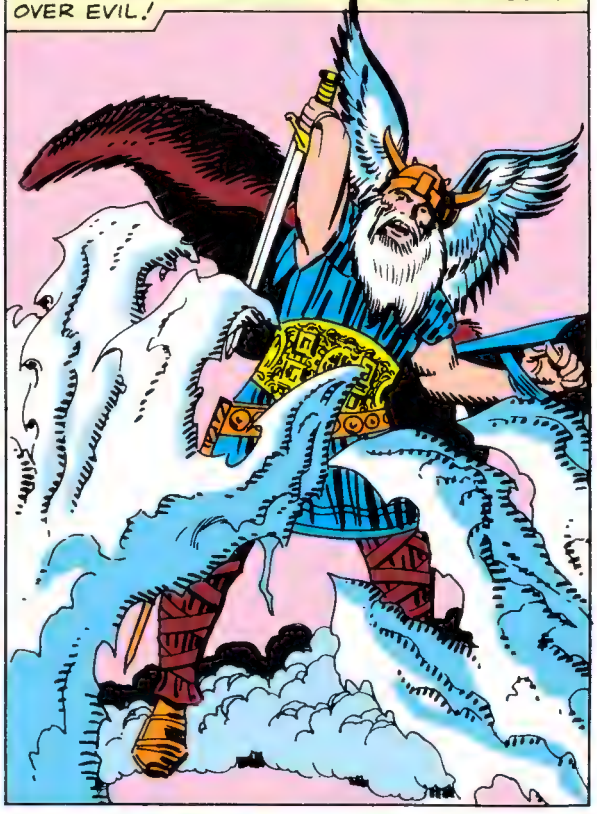
AND THUS THE FIRST OF THE GOOD **ÆSIR** CAME INTO BEING! LOOK WELL AT HIM! LOOK WELL AT THE ONE CALLED **BURI!** FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW HIM SHALL BE **GODS!**



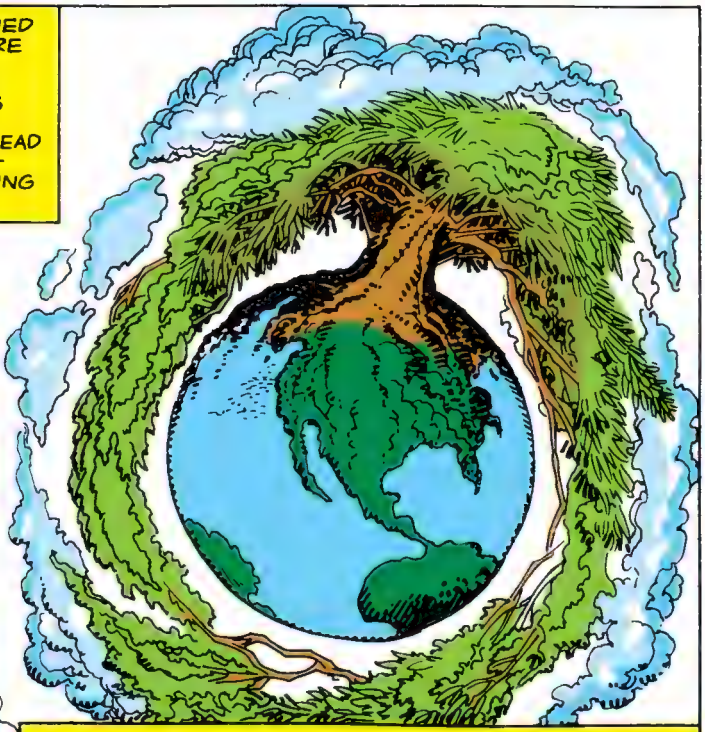
BURI GREW WISE, AND STRONG, AND ONE DAY TOOK HIM A WIFE! THEN HE HAD A SON NAMED **BORR!** AND YEARS LATER BORR WAS MARRIED AND HAD THREE SONS OF HIS OWN! BUT OH, WHAT SONS THEY WERE! FOR ONE WAS NAMED -- **ODIN!!!**



ODIN!! CALLED THE ALL-FATHER! **ODIN!!** GREATEST OF ALL NORSE GODS! **ODIN!** SUPREME WARRIOR WHO SLAYED THE LAST OF THE ICE GIANTS, THUS BRINGING ABOUT THE FIRST TRIUMPH OF GOOD OVER EVIL!



ODIN, AND TWO BROTHERS SOON TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO EARTH! FOR THERE WAS MUCH ABOUT EARTH THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL -- MUCH ABOUT EARTH THAT THEY LOVED! AND SO, THEY SET A RING AROUND THE PLANET, AND THE MAGIC TREE **YGGDRASILL** GREW UP AND SPREAD ITS BRANCHES OVER EARTH, AND PROTECTED IT WHILE AWAITING THE COMING OF **MAN!**



NEXT ISSUE: WE SHALL GO BACK STILL FURTHER TO BRING YOU, IN FASCINATING DETAIL, THE **BATTLE** BETWEEN ODIN AND THE EVIL **ICE GIANTS** -- THE MOST EPIC BATTLE OF ALL TIME!

The END

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IND.
98 NOV.
THINK YOU HAVE TROUBLES? WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO... THOR WHEN HE MEETS... THE HUMAN COBRA!
EVEN A THUNDER GOD CANNOT MATCH MY GREAT POWER... AS YOU ARE NOW ABOUT TO LEARN!!
Also: "TALES OF ASGARD!"---"ODIN BATTLES THE ICE GIANTS!"

THE MIGHTY THOR!
"CHALLENGED BY THE HUMAN COBRA!"
IT ISN'T FAIR! IT ISN'T JUST! I'VE LOST THE ONE THING I WANT MOST IN THE WORLD --LOST IT BECAUSE I'M THOR-- BECAUSE I DARE NOT DISOBEY THE COMMAND OF ODIN, RULER OF THE GODS!
EVEN A THUNDER GOD CAN GO ON THE RAMPAGE! EVEN THE MIGHTY THOR CAN LASH OUT IN A FIT OF UNCONTROLLABLE TEMPER! PERHAPS YOU NEVER THOUGHT OF SUPER-HEROES POSSESSING THE ALL-TOO-HUMAN QUALITIES OF JEALOUSY, FRUSTRATION, AND VIOLENT ANGER... BUT THOR HAS EMOTIONS, EVEN AS YOU AND I! AND SO, AS OUR THRILLING TALE BEGINS, WE FIND HIM GIVING VENT TO A RAGING BURST OF FURY...
WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATED BY: DON HECK
LETTERED BY: ART SIMEK
X-451
1

WHY MUST I REMAIN THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD?? MY IDENTITY HAS BROUGHT ME NOTHING BUT GRIEF, AND LONELINESS!
ALL I NEED DO IS STAMP MY ENCHANTED HAMMER TO RETURN TO MY HUMAN FORM AS DOCTOR DON BLAKE!
THUMP!
BUT, EVEN AS DR. BLAKE, HAPPINESS CANNOT BE MINE! NOT WITHOUT JANE FOSTER, THE GIRL I LOVE!
BUT SHE'S GONE NOW! SHE'S LEFT ME, NEVER TO RETURN! AND ALL BECAUSE OF THOR!
THOR! THE VERY MENTION OF THAT NAME MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL!
CRASH!
IF ONLY I HAD BEEN ABLE TO TELL HER THAT THOR AND DR. BLAKE WERE ONE AND THE SAME! BUT I COULDN'T! ODIN FORBADE IT!
EVEN WHEN I LEARNED SHE LOVED ME, HE SAID WE COULD NEVER MARRY! A THUNDER GOD MAY NEVER MARRY A MORTAL!
"AND SO, THOUGH MY HEART ACHED FOR THE WANT OF HER--THOUGH MY ARMS LONGED TO EMBRACE HER--I COULD NEVER TELL HER MY TRUE FEELINGS! I COULD NEVER SPEAK OF MY LOVE!"
YOU SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO TELL ME, DOCTOR! AND NOW--YOU'RE SO STRANGELY SILENT!
I'M SORRY, JANE! IT--IT SEEMS TO HAVE SLIPPED MY MIND!
"IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT SHE WOULD ONE DAY LEAVE ME--INEVITABLE THAT SHE WOULD THINK MY SILENCE MEANT I DIDN'T CARE! AND THEN, IT HAPPENED..."
GOODBYE, DOCTOR! YOU MAY REACH ME AT DR. ANDREWS' OFFICE IF YOU NEED ME!
I KNOW YOU'LL BE HAPPY AS MY NURSE, JANE!
SUDDENLY, DR. BLAKE'S REVERIE IS BROKEN BY A RESOUNDING THUNDERCLAP, AND A RUMBLING, DISTANT VOICE, HEARD ONLY BY THE MAN WHO IS THOR!
MY SON! I SUMMON THEE TO ASGARD, THY HOME! FOR I HAVE WORDS TO SPEAK WITH THEE!
IT IS ODIN! I CANNOT DISOBEY HIM! I MUST RETURN TO ASGARD!
2

AN INTERVAL LATER, FOR TIME AS WE KNOW IT MEANS NOTHING TO THE GODS OF ASGARD, MIGHTY **THOR** STANDS BEFORE THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER!

I CAN SENSE THY GRIEF, MY SON! AND SO, I HAVE CALLED THEE TO ME TO RECEIVE MY **ADVICE...**

PUT ALL THOUGHTS OF THE HUMAN JANE FOSTER FROM OUT OF THY MIND! FORGET HER! ELSE, YOU WILL NEVER KNOW PEACE!

NO, LORDLY ODIN! **THAT** I CAN NEVER DO!

EVEN THE GOD OF THUNDER CANNOT CLOSE HIS HEART UPON COMMAND!

HE DARES TURN HIS BACK ON **THEE,** ODIN!!

STAY THY HAND! I FORGIVE HIM! FOR I MUST SHARE THE SORROW OF MY FAVORITE SON!

RETURNING TO HIS LONELY OFFICE AGAIN, AS THE LAME DR. BLAKE, THE HEARTSICK MAN COMES TO A MOMENTOUS CONCLUSION...

I MUST GET AWAY--TO FORGET! I'LL GO TO SOME DISTANT LAND, WHERE NOTHING WILL REMIND ME OF THE GIRL I'VE LOVED--AND LOST!

BUT FATE WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS! AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE, AS DON BLAKE WINGS HIS WAY TOWARDS THE EAST, A BITTER, JEALOUS MAN WATCHES HIS KINDLY EMPLOYER WITH HATE-FILLED EYES...

I THINK WE ARE CLOSE TO FINDING THE TOTAL CURE FOR SNAKE-BITE WHICH WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING, KLAUS!

THAT IS GRATIFYING, PROFESSOR SHECKTOR! YOU MUST BE VERY PLEASED!

BAH! ANOTHER GREAT DISCOVERY WILL BE CREDITED TO THE FAMOUS PROFESSOR SHECKTOR, WHILE I, HIS ASSISTANT, SLAVE FOR A MEASLY WAGE!

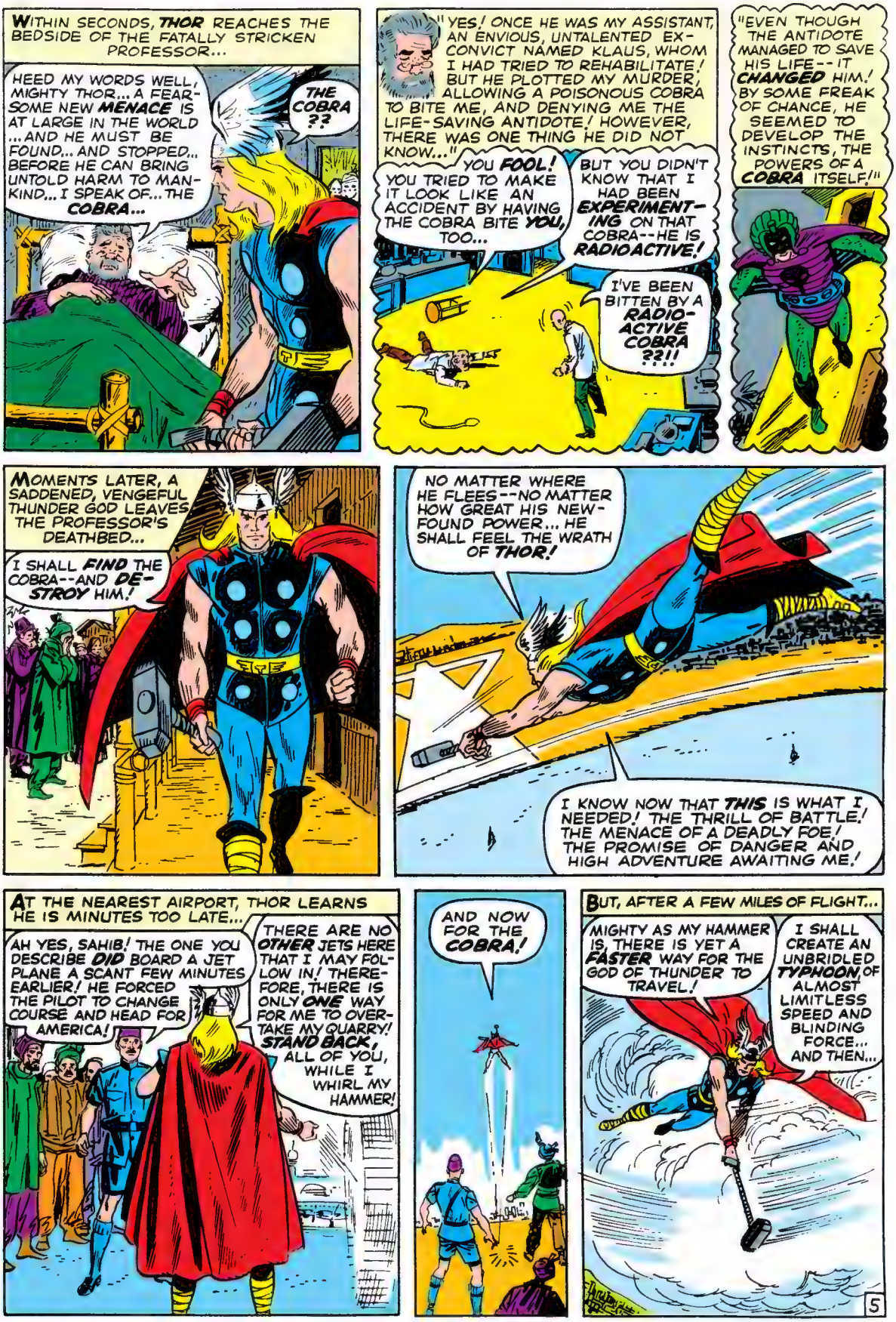
BUT, IF SOMETHING WERE TO **HAPPEN** TO THE GOOD PROFESSOR... IF **I** COULD GET THE CREDIT FOR HIS DISCOVERY...!

WELL, WHY **NOT??** IN THIS LONELY, ISOLATED REGION OF INDIA, WHO COULD PROVE IT WAS NOT AN--ACCIDENT ?!!

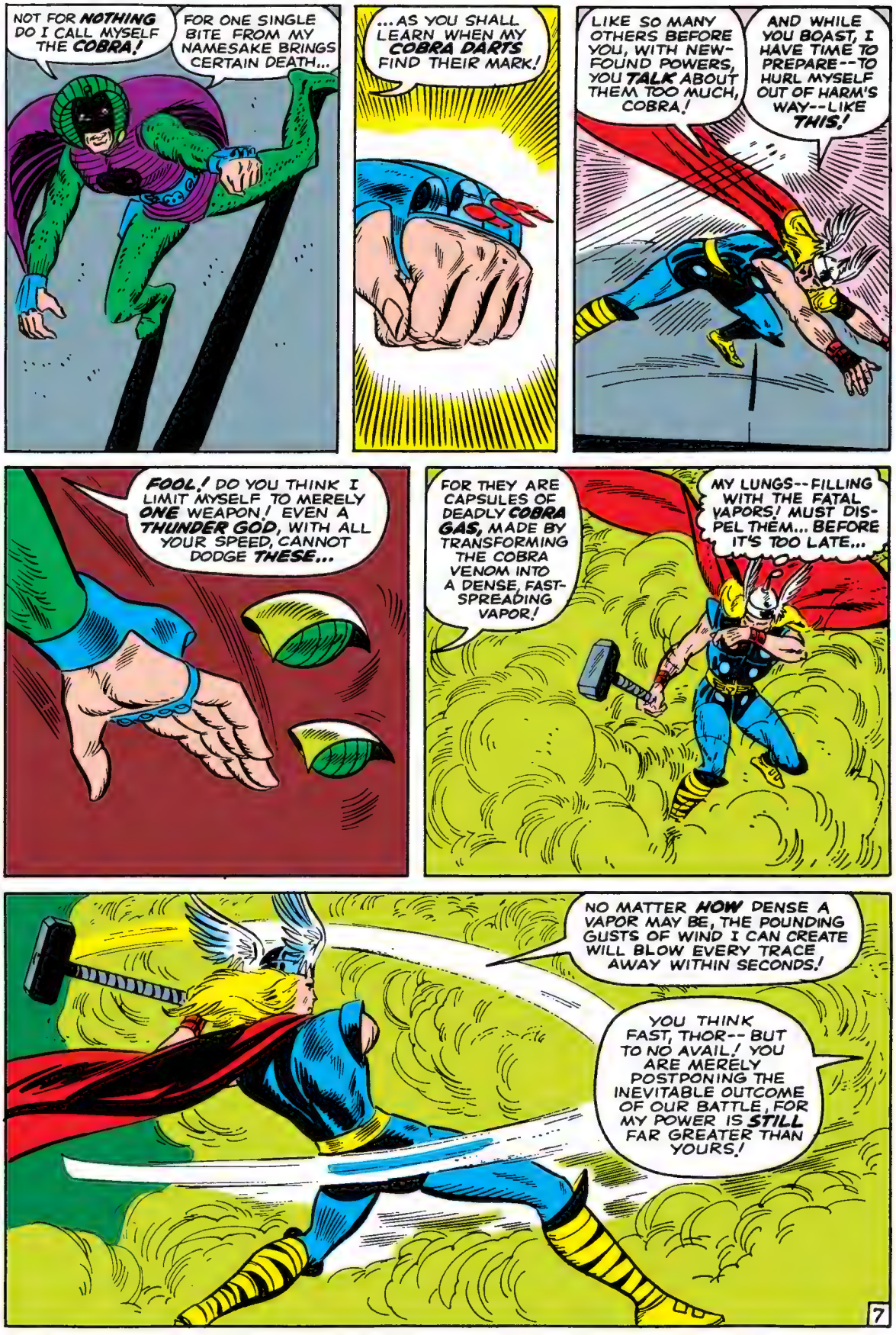
IT WILL BE SO **EASY!** I WILL LET THE **COBRA** BITE BOTH SHECKTOR AND ME! BUT **I** WILL TAKE THE ANTIDOTE--AND I WILL NOT GIVE IT TO **HIM!**

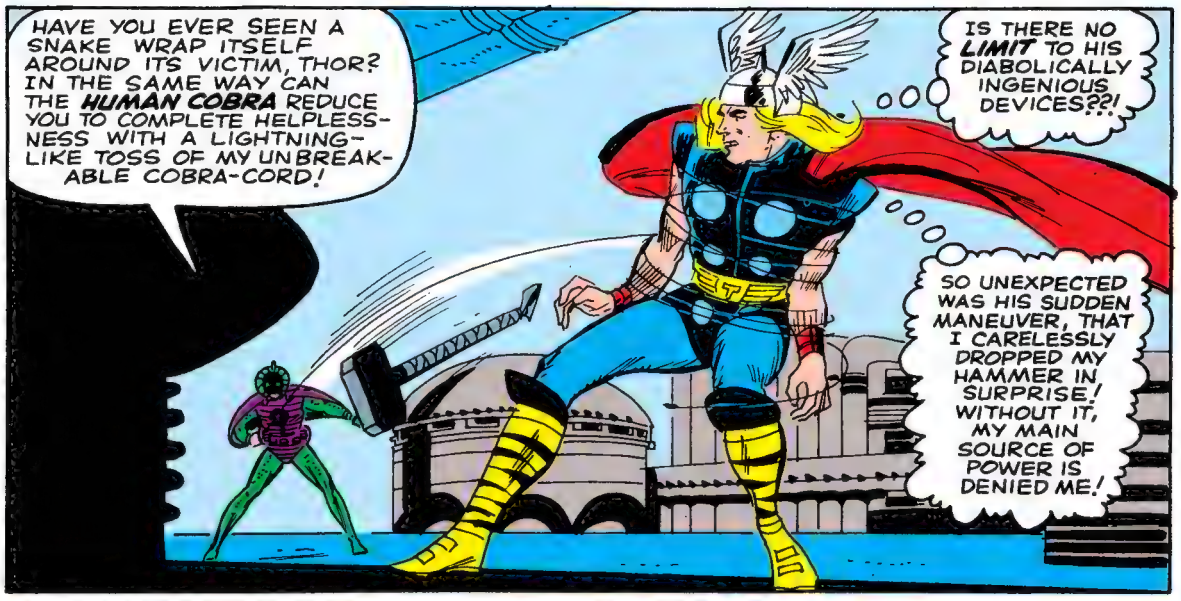
IT WILL BE FOOL-PROOF! IT WILL SEEM LIKE AN ACCIDENT, BECAUSE WE WILL **BOTH** HAVE BEEN BITTEN--AND I CAN SAY I COULD NOT GET THE SERUM TO SHECKTOR IN TIME!

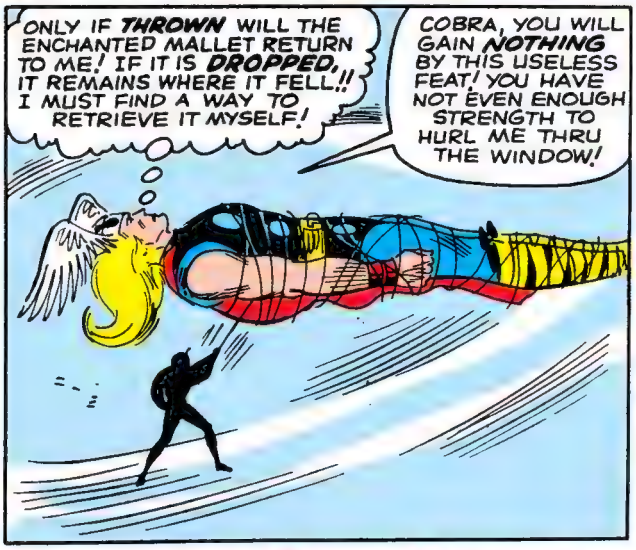
LATER, IN BOMBAY, AN INTERESTED TOURIST OVERHEARS A STARTLING BIT OF NEWS...
IT IS TRUE! THE GOOD PROFESSOR SHECKTOR IS DYING--FROM THE BITE OF A POISONOUS SERPENT!
PROFESSOR SHECKTOR! MY OLD TEACHER! THE MAN THEY CALL THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER OF INDIA! IT CAN'T BE!
HE HAS DONE SO MUCH GOOD FOR OUR PEOPLE! THIS IS A TRAGIC DAY FOR OUR BELOVED INDIA!
I HAD HOPED I'D NEVER AGAIN FIND THE NEED TO BECOME THOR! AND YET --PERHAPS I CAN HELP MY OLD FRIEND, IF I GET TO HIM IN TIME...
THUMP!
AND NONE CAN TRAVEL AS FAST--OR AS UNERRINGLY, AS THE GOD OF THUNDER!
IT SEEMS I CAN NEVER ABANDON MY LEGENDARY IDENTITY! FOR, WHEN THERE IS A NEED, THOR MUST RESPOND!
DRIVER, YOU WILL FIND THE PAYMENT FOR THIS RIDE ON THE BACK SEAT OF YOUR VEHICLE! I MUST NOW SEEK A FASTER METHOD OF TRAVEL!
HUH? WHO SAID--- ?? WHERE'D HE GO??
OUT THE WINDOW... I MUST BE SEEING THINGS! A FLYING MAN!
ONWARD, MY TRUSTY MALLET! LET YOUR SURGING POWER CARRY ME TO THE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE WHERE DOCTOR SHECKTOR LIES DYING!
MOMENTS LATER, AFTER A SKYBORNE FLIGHT AT ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE SPEED...
THERE IS THE VILLAGE BELOW ME! I HOPE I HAVE ARRIVED IN TIME!
4

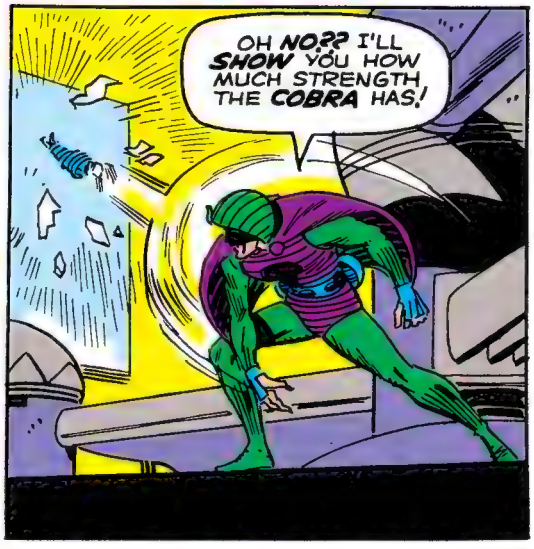

WITHIN SECONDS, THOR REACHES THE BEDSIDE OF THE FATALLY STRICKEN PROFESSOR...
HEED MY WORDS WELL, MIGHTY THOR... A FEARSOME NEW MENACE IS AT LARGE IN THE WORLD ...AND HE MUST BE FOUND... AND STOPPED... BEFORE HE CAN BRING UNTOLD HARM TO MANKIND... I SPEAK OF... THE COBRA...
THE COBRA ??
"YES! ONCE HE WAS MY ASSISTANT, AN ENVIOUS, UNTALENTED EX-CONVICT NAMED KLAUS, WHOM I HAD TRIED TO REHABILITATE! BUT HE PLOTTED MY MURDER, ALLOWING A POISONOUS COBRA TO BITE ME, AND DENYING ME THE LIFE-SAVING ANTIDOTE! HOWEVER, THERE WAS ONE THING HE DID NOT KNOW..."
YOU FOOL! YOU TRIED TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT BY HAVING THE COBRA BITE YOU, TOO...
BUT YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT I HAD BEEN EXPERIMENTING ON THAT COBRA--HE IS RADIOACTIVE!
I'VE BEEN BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE COBRA ??!!
"EVEN THOUGH THE ANTIDOTE MANAGED TO SAVE HIS LIFE--IT CHANGED HIM! BY SOME FREAK OF CHANCE, HE SEEMED TO DEVELOP THE INSTINCTS, THE POWERS OF A COBRA ITSELF!"
MOMENTS LATER, A SADDENED, VENGEFUL THUNDER GOD LEAVES THE PROFESSOR'S DEATHBED...
I SHALL FIND THE COBRA--AND DESTROY HIM!
NO MATTER WHERE HE FLEES--NO MATTER HOW GREAT HIS NEWFOUND POWER... HE SHALL FEEL THE WRATH OF THOR!
I KNOW NOW THAT THIS IS WHAT I NEEDED! THE THRILL OF BATTLE! THE MENACE OF A DEADLY FOE! THE PROMISE OF DANGER AND HIGH ADVENTURE AWAITING ME!
AT THE NEAREST AIRPORT, THOR LEARNS HE IS MINUTES TOO LATE...
AH YES, SAHIB! THE ONE YOU DESCRIBE DID BOARD A JET PLANE A SCANT FEW MINUTES EARLIER! HE FORCED THE PILOT TO CHANGE COURSE AND HEAD FOR AMERICA!
THERE ARE NO OTHER JETS HERE THAT I MAY FOLLOW IN! THEREFORE, THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY FOR ME TO OVERTAKE MY QUARRY! STAND BACK, ALL OF YOU, WHILE I WHIRL MY HAMMER!
AND NOW FOR THE COBRA!
BUT, AFTER A FEW MILES OF FLIGHT...
MIGHTY AS MY HAMMER IS, THERE IS YET A FASTER WAY FOR THE GOD OF THUNDER TO TRAVEL!
I SHALL CREATE AN UNBRIDLED TYPHOON, OF ALMOST LIMITLESS SPEED AND BLINDING FORCE... AND THEN...
5

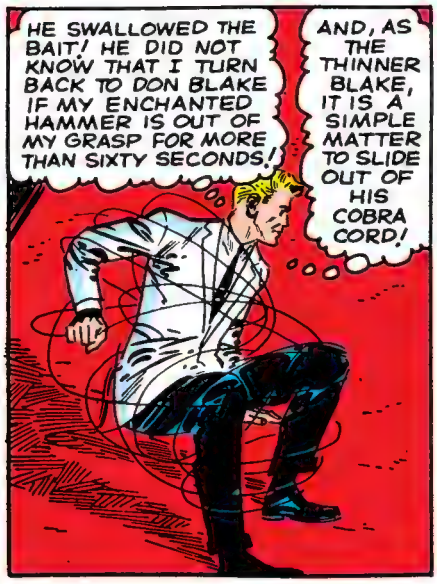
RIDING THE TYPHOON AS ONLY A THUNDER GOD CAN, MIGHTY THOR TRAVELS ACROSS HALF THE GLOBE AT SPEEDS WHICH MATCH THOSE OF THE FLEEING JET ITSELF!
IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT THE GOD OF THUNDER SHOULD TRAVEL ON THE WINGS OF THE WIND!
FINALLY, AT IDLEWILD AIRPORT, WHEN THE CREATURE WHO NOW CALLS HIMSELF THE COBRA MAKES A DRAMATIC EXIT FROM HIS COMMANDEERED JET, A PAIR OF PIERCING EYES FOLLOW HIS EVERY MOVE...
I SHALL FOLLOW MY FOE, AND LEARN OF HIS PLANS BEFORE I STRIKE!
HE SLITHERS UP AND DOWN WALLS LIKE A SERPENT WHOSE NAME HE HAS TAKEN! HE SHALL TRULY BE A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT!
BUT WHY HAS HE CHOSEN TO ENTER THAT CHEMICAL MANU-FACTURING PLANT?
HEAR ME, YOU PUNY HUMANS! I, THE COBRA, DEMAND COMPLETE CONTROL OF THIS ENTIRE PLANT!
HERE SHALL I MANUFACTURE GALLONS OF COBRA SERUM, TO CREATE A VAST ARMY OF OTHERS LIKE MYSELF -- TO DO MY BIDDING AND SERVE ME WITHOUT QUESTION!
ARE WE SEEING THINGS?! IT-IT LOOKS LIKE A HALF-MAN, AND HALF-SERPENT! A THING OF UNIMAGIN-ABLE EVIL!
MY POWER FAR EXCEEDS THAT OF MORTAL MAN! I HAVE THE SPEED AND CUNNING OF A SERPENT -- THE DEADLY STING OF THE KING COBRA ITSELF, COUPLED WITH THE BRAIN AND CUN-NING OF A HUMAN BEING!
AND SO I COMMAND YOU TO OBEY MY MY EVERY ORDER, OR ELSE FEEL MY FATAL STING!
I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH! YOU ARE DESERVING OF NO MERCY, COBRA! AND THE ONLY STING TO BE FELT THIS DAY SHALL BE THAT OF MY HAMMER, WHICH HUNGERS FOR YOUR DEFEAT!
WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK! IT'S THOR!
PREPARE FOR A SURPRISE, OVER-RATED THUNDER GOD! FOR MY POWER IS STILL GREATER THAN YOURS -- AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO FIND OUT!
6


NOT FOR NOTHING DO I CALL MYSELF THE COBRA!
FOR ONE SINGLE BITE FROM MY NAMESAKE BRINGS CERTAIN DEATH...
...AS YOU SHALL LEARN WHEN MY COBRA DARTS FIND THEIR MARK!
LIKE SO MANY OTHERS BEFORE YOU, WITH NEW-FOUND POWERS, YOU TALK ABOUT THEM TOO MUCH, COBRA!
AND WHILE YOU BOAST, I HAVE TIME TO PREPARE--TO HURL MYSELF OUT OF HARM'S WAY--LIKE THIS!
FOOL! DO YOU THINK I LIMIT MYSELF TO MERELY ONE WEAPON! EVEN A THUNDER GOD, WITH ALL YOUR SPEED, CANNOT DODGE THESE...
FOR THEY ARE CAPSULES OF DEADLY COBRA GAS, MADE BY TRANSFORMING THE COBRA VENOM INTO A DENSE, FAST-SPREADING VAPOR!
MY LUNGS--FILLING WITH THE FATAL VAPORS! MUST DISPEL THEM... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...
NO MATTER HOW DENSE A VAPOR MAY BE, THE POUNDING GUSTS OF WIND I CAN CREATE WILL BLOW EVERY TRACE AWAY WITHIN SECONDS!
YOU THINK FAST, THOR-- BUT TO NO AVAIL! YOU ARE MERELY POSTPONING THE INEVITABLE OUTCOME OF OUR BATTLE, FOR MY POWER IS STILL FAR GREATER THAN YOURS!

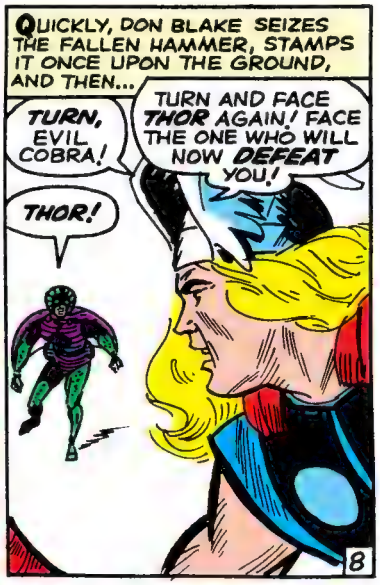

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A SNAKE WRAP ITSELF AROUND ITS VICTIM, THOR? IN THE SAME WAY CAN THE HUMAN COBRA REDUCE YOU TO COMPLETE HELPLESSNESS WITH A LIGHTNING-LIKE TOSS OF MY UNBREAKABLE COBRA-CORD!
IS THERE NO LIMIT TO HIS DIABOLICALLY INGENIOUS DEVICES??!
SO UNEXPECTED WAS HIS SUDDEN MANEUVER, THAT I CARELESSLY DROPPED MY HAMMER IN SURPRISE! WITHOUT IT, MY MAIN SOURCE OF POWER IS DENIED ME!


ONLY IF THROWN WILL THE ENCHANTED MALLET RETURN TO ME! IF IT IS DROPPED, IT REMAINS WHERE IT FELL!! I MUST FIND A WAY TO RETRIEVE IT MYSELF!
COBRA, YOU WILL GAIN NOTHING BY THIS USELESS FEAT! YOU HAVE NOT EVEN ENOUGH STRENGTH TO HURL ME THRU THE WINDOW!

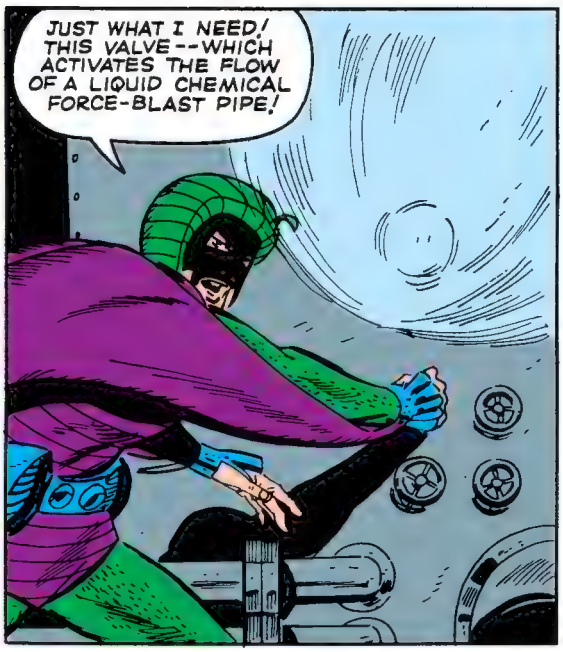

OH NO?? I'LL SHOW YOU HOW MUCH STRENGTH THE COBRA HAS!


HE SWALLOWED THE BAIT! HE DID NOT KNOW THAT I TURN BACK TO DON BLAKE IF MY ENCHANTED HAMMER IS OUT OF MY GRASP FOR MORE THAN SIXTY SECONDS!
AND, AS THE THINNER BLAKE, IT IS A SIMPLE MATTER TO SLIDE OUT OF HIS COBRA CORD!

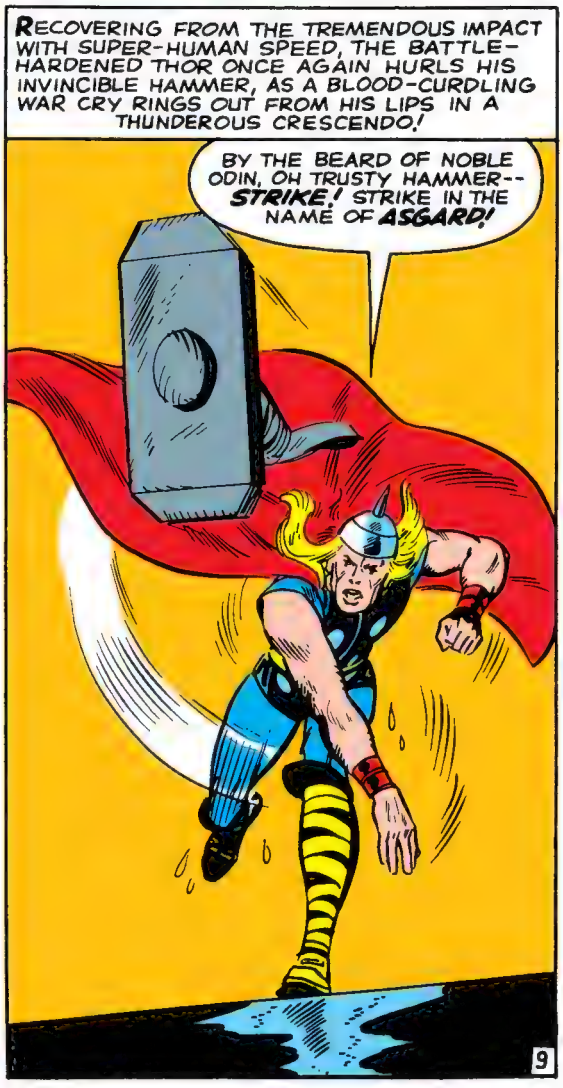
RUSHING OUTSIDE TO RESUME HIS BATTLE WITH MIGHTY THOR, THE UNSUSPECTING COBRA PAYS NO ATTENTION TO THE LAME, PUNY MAN WHO HOBBLES BACK INTO THE BUILDING...
THOR IS GONE! BUT, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HOW DID HE FREE HIMSELF???


QUICKLY, DON BLAKE SEIZES THE FALLEN HAMMER, STAMPS IT ONCE UPON THE GROUND, AND THEN...
TURN, EVIL COBRA!
TURN AND FACE THOR AGAIN! FACE THE ONE WHO WILL NOW DEFEAT YOU!
THOR!

HE IS PLUMMETING TOWARDS ME--ABOUT TO STRIKE WITH THAT ACCURSED HAMMER! I MUST WARD HIM OFF SOMEHOW--OR I AM LOST!
HOW GOOD IT FEELS TO LEAP INTO BATTLE AGAIN--TO HURL MYSELF AGAINST A CREATURE OF EVIL!


JUST WHAT I NEED! THIS VALVE--WHICH ACTIVATES THE FLOW OF A LIQUID CHEMICAL FORCE-BLAST PIPE!

BY A BLIND STROKE OF LUCK, THE CHEMICAL RELEASED BY THE COBRA'S SUDDEN MOVE IS A BLINDING, STINGING, ACID-BASE FORMULA, WHICH STRIKES THE THUNDER GOD WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO DESTROY A DOZEN MORTAL MEN!
WHOOM!


RECOVERING FROM THE TREMENDOUS IMPACT WITH SUPER-HUMAN SPEED, THE BATTLE-HARDENED THOR ONCE AGAIN HURLS HIS INVINCIBLE HAMMER, AS A BLOOD-CURDLING WAR CRY RINGS OUT FROM HIS LIPS IN A THUNDEROUS CRESCENDO!
BY THE BEARD OF NOBLE ODIN, OH TRUSTY HAMMER--STRIKE! STRIKE IN THE NAME OF ASGARD!

AND THEN, AMAZINGLY, THE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE HAPPENS! MOVING WITH BLINDING SPEED, AS SWIFTLY AND AS UNERRINGLY AS THE SERPENT WHOSE NAME HE HAS TAKEN, THE COBRA, HAVING BEEN BITTEN BY A RADIO-ACTIVE SNAKE, IS ONE OF THE FEW LIVING CREATURES EVER TO BE ABLE TO **DODGE** THOR'S MIGHTY HAMMER!

BY THE GODS! MY HAMMER HAS MISSED THE COBRA AND CRASHED INTO THAT TANK OF CHEMICAL TEST GAS ABOVE HIM!

HAH! EVEN YOUR MUCH-VAUNTED HAMMER IS NOT FAST ENOUGH TO MATCH **MY** SUPER-HUMAN SPEED!

THE SWIFTLY SPREADING GAS VAPORS TEMPORARILY BLIND THE SURPRISED THUNDER GOD BEFORE HIS HAMMER CAN RETURN, ALLOWING HIM TO DISPEL THEM!

MY **EYES!** I CANNOT SEE!

CRASH!

AND, BY THE TIME THE SMOKY FUMES HAVE BLOWN AWAY...

THE COBRA HAS **ESCAPED!**

BUT I MUST **FIND** HIM! SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW--HE **MUST** BE FOUND!

MEANTIME, FATE DISPLAYS A GRIM TOUCH OF IRONY AS WE FIND THE COBRA ABOUT TO ENTER A WINDOW --A VERY **SPECIAL** WINDOW...

JUST WHAT I HAVE BEEN SEEKING-- A **DOCTOR'S** OFFICE!

YES, YOU GUESSED IT! OF ALL THE DOCTORS IN THE SPRAWLING CITY OF NEW YORK, THE SERPENTINE MENACE ENTERS THE OFFICE OF DOCTOR **ANDREWS**, CONFRONTING BOTH THE STARTLED PHYSICIAN AND HIS NEW NURSE, **JANE FOSTER!**

DR. ANDREWS! WHO-- **WHAT** IS THAT???

I-I DON'T **KNOW**, JANE! BUT HE LOOKS DANGEROUS-- TERRIFYING!

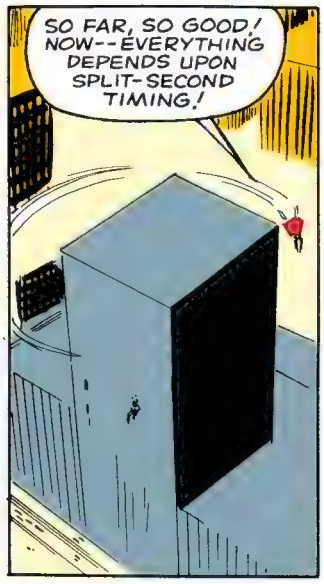
EVEN **MORE** DANGEROUS THAN YOU CAN **SUSPECT**, MY GOOD DOCTOR! FOR I AM THE **COBRA**! BUT, IF YOU OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND TO THE LETTER, I MAY PERMIT YOU TO **LIVE**--A WHILE LONGER!

FIRST, YOU MUST PROVIDE ME WITH SERUMS FROM YOUR MEDICINE CABINET-- SERUMS WITH WHICH I CAN ACHIEVE MY ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE!

DOCTOR, YOU MUSTN'T! NO MATTER HOW HE THREATENS US, YOU MUST NOT AID HIM!
QUIET, YOU YOUNG FOOL! IF YOU DON'T WISH TO CONTINUE LIVING, I DO!
OF COURSE I WILL DO WHAT YOU SAY, COBRA! I-I AM NOT LOOKING FOR ANY TROUBLE! WH-WHAT DO YOU REQUIRE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A-A COWARD!
AND TO THINK I LEFT DOCTOR BLAKE IN ORDER TO WORK FOR YOU!
ALTHOUGH HE IS LAME, AND UN-GLAMOROUS, YOU'LL NEVER BE HALF THE MAN THAT HE IS!
SECONDS LATER, THE DISILLUSIONED GIRL SEES A MIGHTY FIGURE STREAKING PAST THE WINDOW, SEARCHING FOR HIS VANISHED FOE!
IT'S THOR! IF ONLY I CAN ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION!
YOU MUST NOTICE THIS, MIGHTY THOR! YOU MUST!
CRASH!
THE COBRA SAW ME! HE-HE'S LIVID WITH RAGE!
SO! YOU TRIED TO DEFY THE COBRA, DID YOU! YOU SHALL LIVE TO REGRET THAT FOOLISH DEED!
...BUT NOT FOR LONG! NOT AFTER YOU HAVE FELT THE STING OF MY COBRA DARTS!
NO! NO! YOU MUSTN'T!
HELP ME, SOMEBODY-- HELP!
11

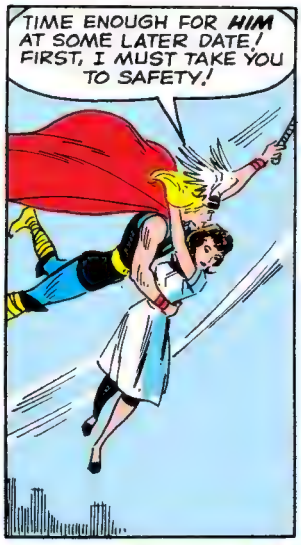
AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, AN AWESOME, FIGHTING-MAD BLUE AND GOLD CLAD FIGURE STOPS THE FLIGHT OF THE DEADLY COBRA-DARTS IN MID-AIR!
THIS TIME, YOU MERCILESS FIEND, THERE SHALL BE NO ESCAPE!
THOR!
I STILL SHALL WIN THE FINAL BATTLE, THUNDER GOD! FOR IF YOU MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, AN INNOCENT GIRL WILL PERISH!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, THOR! YOU MUST STOP THE COBRA-- NO MATTER WHAT!
NO, JANE FOSTER-- I SHALL NOT ALLOW YOU TO BE INJURED!
THAT'S JUST WHAT I HOPED YOU'D SAY, YOU SPINELESS FOOL! AND NOW, FAREWELL!! I'LL LEAVE AS ONLY THE COBRA CAN!
AND REMEMBER, IF YOU TRY TO STOP ME, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FEMALE'S TRAGIC FATE!
HARM ONE HAIR OF HER HEAD, COBRA-- AND THERE WILL NOT BE A PLACE IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE WHERE YOU WILL BE SAFE FROM MY VENGEANCE!
WORDS! THAT'S ALL YOU ARE GOOD FOR, THUNDER GOD-- SPOUTING HIGH-SOUNDING WORDS! BUT I DO NOT FEAR YOU-- FOR I HAVE PROVEN MYSELF TO BE YOUR MASTER!
I'VE GOT TO FREE JANE FROM THAT MADMAN WITHOUT INJURING HER! BUT HOW?!
WAIT! PERHAPS THERE IS A WAY! IT'S A LONG CHANCE--BUT I MUST TAKE IT!
12

EVERYTHING DEPENDS UPON THE COBRA NOT SEEING ME AS I PLUNGE FROM THE WINDOW!
NOW THAT I HAVE DEFEATED THOR, THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN STOP ME!
YOU'LL NEVER DEFEAT THE THUNDER GOD, COBRA! JUST WAIT!

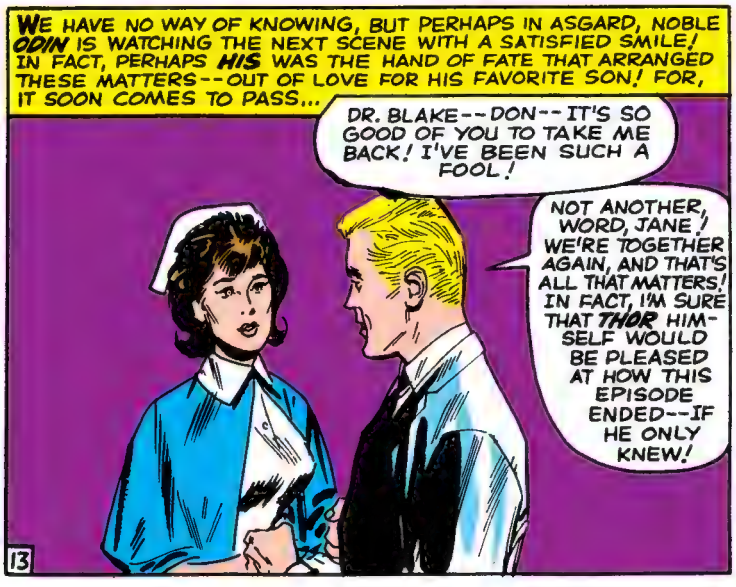

SO FAR, SO GOOD! NOW--EVERYTHING DEPENDS UPON SPLIT-SECOND TIMING!

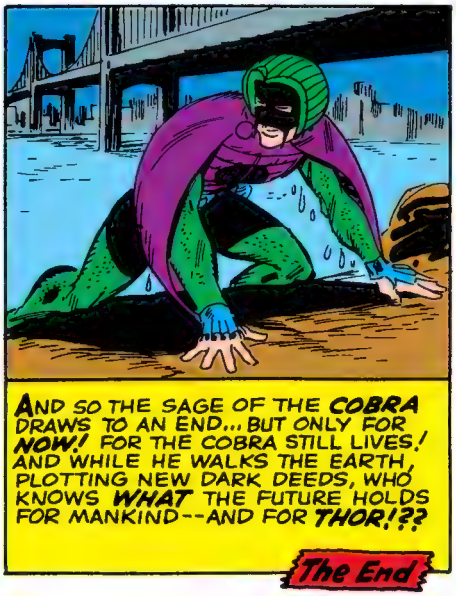
MADE IT!
NOW, COBRA--NOW LET ME HEAR YOU BOAST HOW YOU HAVE DEFEATED ME!
YOU HAVEN'T GOT ME YET! I WARNED YOU THE GIRL WOULD DIE...
NO! DON'T DROP ME!

FEAR NOT, JANE FOSTER! NO HARM SHALL BEFALL YOU WHILE THOR LIVES!
BUT THE COBRA--HE'S ESCAP-ING!

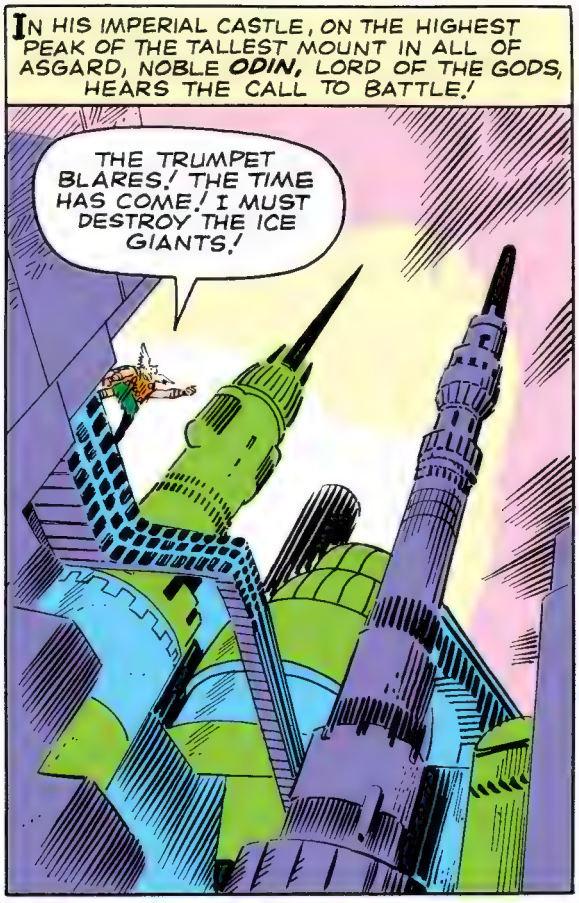

TIME ENOUGH FOR HIM AT SOME LATER DATE! FIRST, I MUST TAKE YOU TO SAFETY!

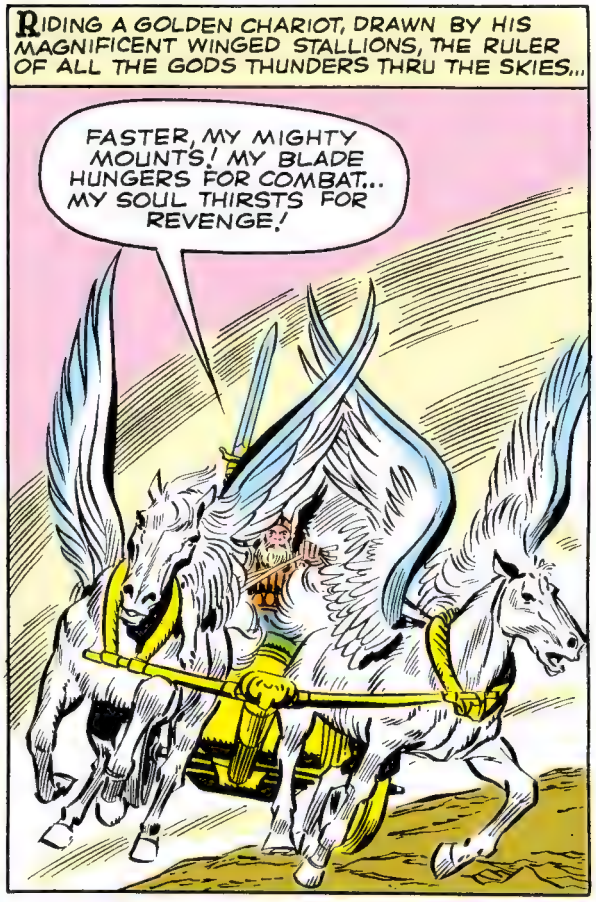
IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO TELL, THE DISILLUSIONED GIRL IS RETURNED TO HER OFFICE, WHERE SHE REMAINS JUST LONG ENOUGH TO PACK HER BELONGINGS, AND...
GOODBYE, DOCTOR ANDREWS! I AM GOING TO RETURN TO A REAL MAN, AND ASK HIS FORGIVE-NESS--BEG HIM TO LET ME WORK FOR HIM AGAIN, IF HE'LL HAVE ME!
JANE! WAIT--YOU CAN'T--JANE!


WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING, BUT PERHAPS IN ASGARD, NOBLE ODIN IS WATCHING THE NEXT SCENE WITH A SATISFIED SMILE! IN FACT, PERHAPS HIS WAS THE HAND OF FATE THAT ARRANGED THESE MATTERS--OUT OF LOVE FOR HIS FAVORITE SON! FOR, IT SOON COMES TO PASS...
DR. BLAKE--DON--IT'S SO GOOD OF YOU TO TAKE ME BACK! I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL!
NOT ANOTHER WORD, JANE! WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN, AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS! IN FACT, I'M SURE THAT THOR HIM-SELF WOULD BE PLEASED AT HOW THIS EPISODE ENDED--IF HE ONLY KNEW!
13


AND SO THE SAGE OF THE COBRA DRAWS TO AN END... BUT ONLY FOR NOW! FOR THE COBRA STILL LIVES! AND WHILE HE WALKS THE EARTH, PLOTTING NEW DARK DEEDS, WHO KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR MANKIND--AND FOR THOR!??
The End

TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE GODS!
ODIN BATTLES
YMIR,
KING OF THE ICE GIANTS
WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE
DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY
INKED BY: DON HECK
LETTERED BY: ART SIMEK
IN THE DAYS OF THE GODS, WHEN THE WORLD WAS YOUNG, ASGARD WAS MENACED BY THE RAMPAGING ICE GIANTS, DETERMINED TO BRING FROST, DESOLATION, AND ETERNAL NIGHT TO THE LAND OF THE GODS!
THIS IS THE TALE OF THEIR ATTACK, ONE OF THE GREATEST BATTLES OF ALL TIME!
BASED UPON THE IMMORTAL LEGENDS OF THE NORSE GODS!
X-452
1

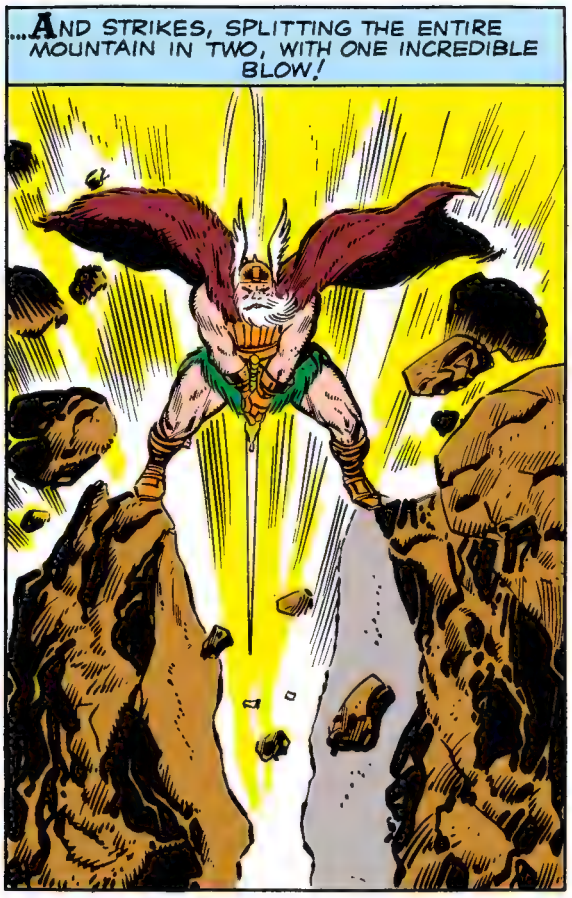

IN HIS IMPERIAL CASTLE, ON THE HIGHEST PEAK OF THE TALLEST MOUNT IN ALL OF ASGARD, NOBLE ODIN, LORD OF THE GODS, HEARS THE CALL TO BATTLE!
THE TRUMPET BLARES! THE TIME HAS COME! I MUST DESTROY THE ICE GIANTS!

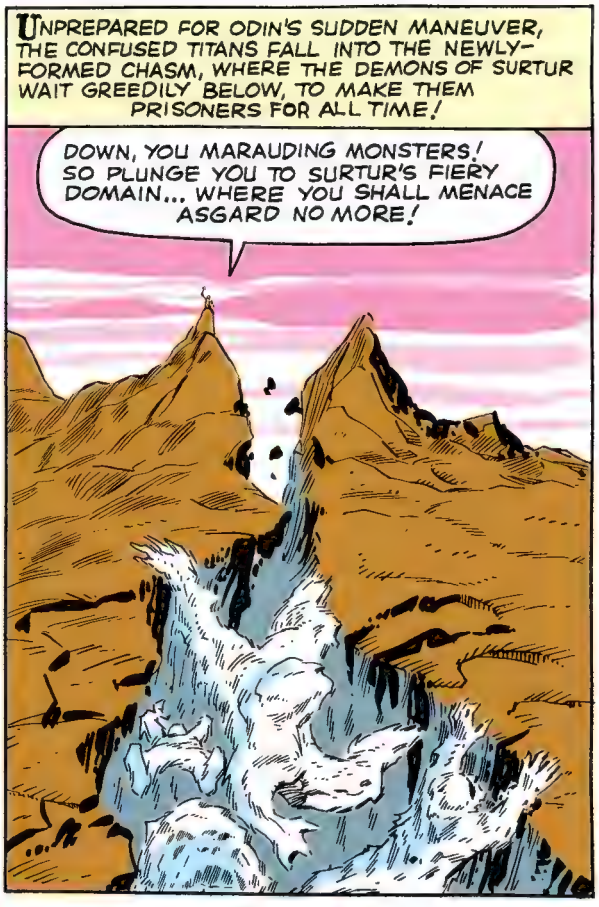

RIDING A GOLDEN CHARIOT, DRAWN BY HIS MAGNIFICENT WINGED STALLIONS, THE RULER OF ALL THE GODS THUNDERS THRU THE SKIES...
FASTER, MY MIGHTY MOUNTS! MY BLADE HUNGERS FOR COMBAT... MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR REVENGE!

BEHOLD! ODIN JOINS THE BATTLE!
WHEN HE IS SLAIN, ALL OF ASGARD SHALL BE OURS!

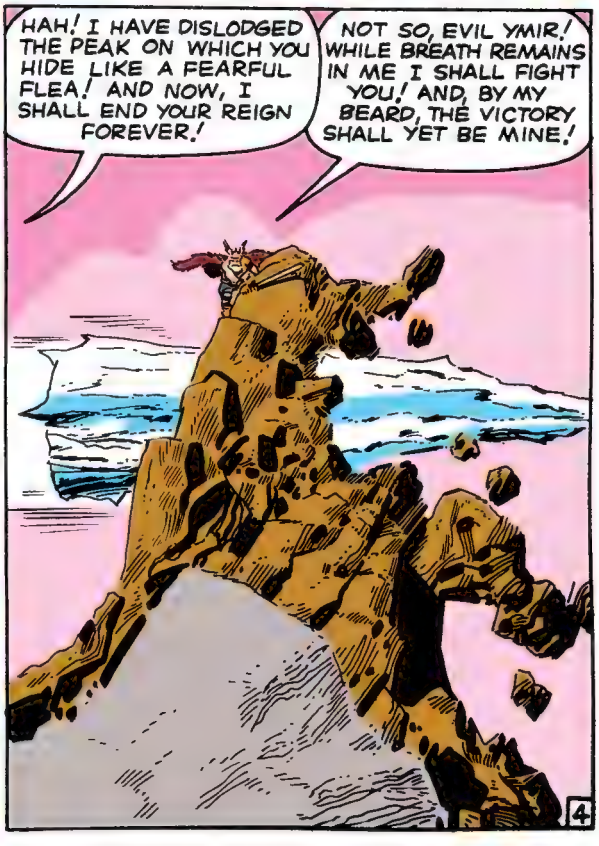
BUT, THOUGH DWARFED IN SIZE BY HIS GIGANTIC FOES, THE VALIANT ODIN DRAWS BACK HIS MAGIC SWORD AS HIS DEAFENING WAR CRY REVERBERATES THRU THE HEAVENS...
DEATH TO THE ENEMIES OF ASGARD!
2

SUMMONING THE AWESOME FORCES OF NATURE TO HIS BEHEST, THE MONARCH OF ASGARD HURLS MIGHTY METEOR BOLTS AT THE FEARSOME FRIGID BEHEMOTHS WHO ARE MENACING HIS DOMAIN!
BUT, THOSE OF THE ICE GIANTS WHO SURVIVE MIGHTY BLASTS USE THEIR DEADLY ICE-CLUBS AGAINST ODIN, TRYING TO BATTER HIM FROM THE SKIES!
UNABLE TO STRIKE THE SWIFTLY-DARTING CHARIOT, THEY THEN RESORT TO THEIR MOST POTENT POWER... IN UNISON, THE ICE GIANTS UNLEASH A TITANIC GUST OF FROZEN NORTH WIND, HURLING THEIR NOBLE FOE FROM HIS CRAZILY- SPINNING CHARIOT!
AS THE GRACEFUL WINGED STALLIONS FLY OFF, ODIN LANDS ATOP THE MOUNTAIN ON WHICH THE ICE GIANTS STAND...
THEN, AS HIS CONFIDENT FOES CREEP SLOWLY TOWARDS HIM, MIGHTY ODIN DRAWS BACK HIS MAGIC SWORD...
3

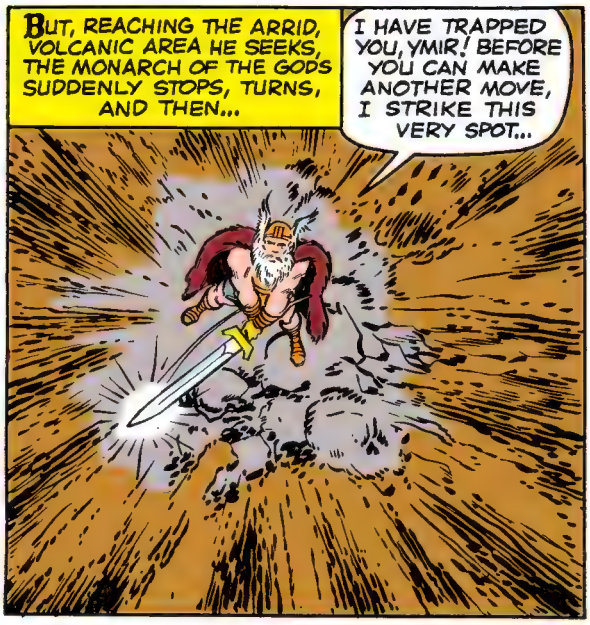

...AND STRIKES, SPLITTING THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN IN TWO, WITH ONE INCREDIBLE BLOW!


UNPREPARED FOR ODIN'S SUDDEN MANEUVER, THE CONFUSED TITANS FALL INTO THE NEWLY-FORMED CHASM, WHERE THE DEMONS OF SURTUR WAIT GREEDILY BELOW, TO MAKE THEM PRISONERS FOR ALL TIME!
DOWN, YOU MARAUDING MONSTERS! SO PLUNGE YOU TO SURTUR'S FIERY DOMAIN... WHERE YOU SHALL MENACE ASGARD NO MORE!

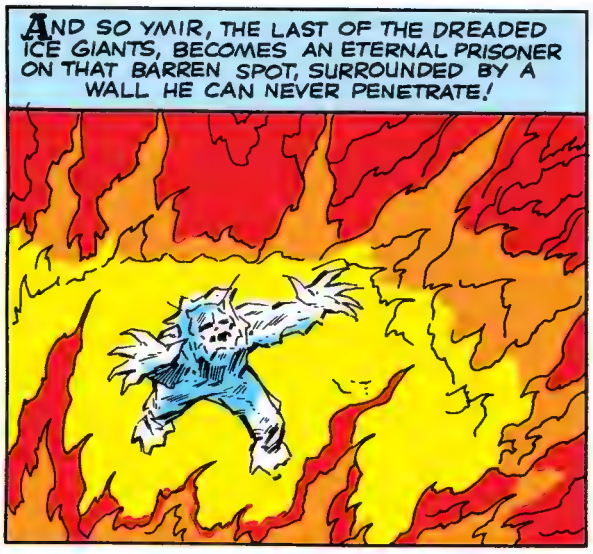
BUT ONE FROZEN BEHEMOTH STILL REMAINS! THIS, THE MIGHTIEST, THE MOST SAVAGE OF ALL, IS YMIR, KING OF THE ICE GIANTS!
VICTORY IS NOT YET YOURS, ACCURSED ODIN! MY ICY SPEAR SHALL YET BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES!

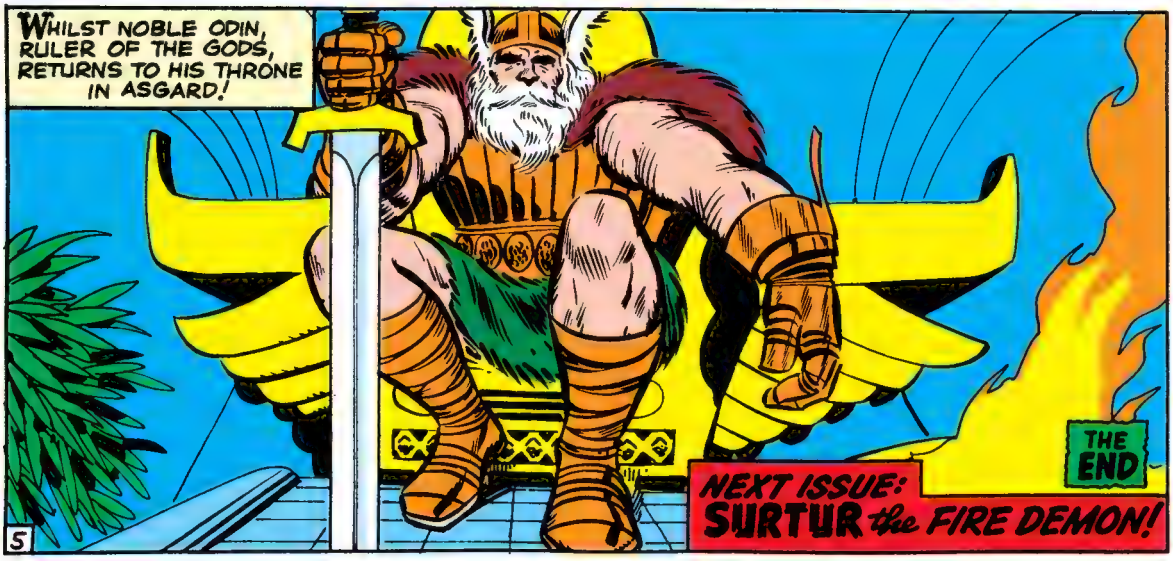

HAH! I HAVE DISLODGED THE PEAK ON WHICH YOU HIDE LIKE A FEARFUL FLEA! AND NOW, I SHALL END YOUR REIGN FOREVER!
NOT SO, EVIL YMIR! WHILE BREATH REMAINS IN ME I SHALL FIGHT YOU! AND, BY MY BEARD, THE VICTORY SHALL YET BE MINE!

YOUR WORDS ARE BRAVE, BUT YOUR DEEDS MAKE A MOCKERY OF THEM! EVEN NOW, AS YOU RETREAT IN COWARDLY PANIC, I SHALL SEIZE YOU... AND DESTROY YOU!

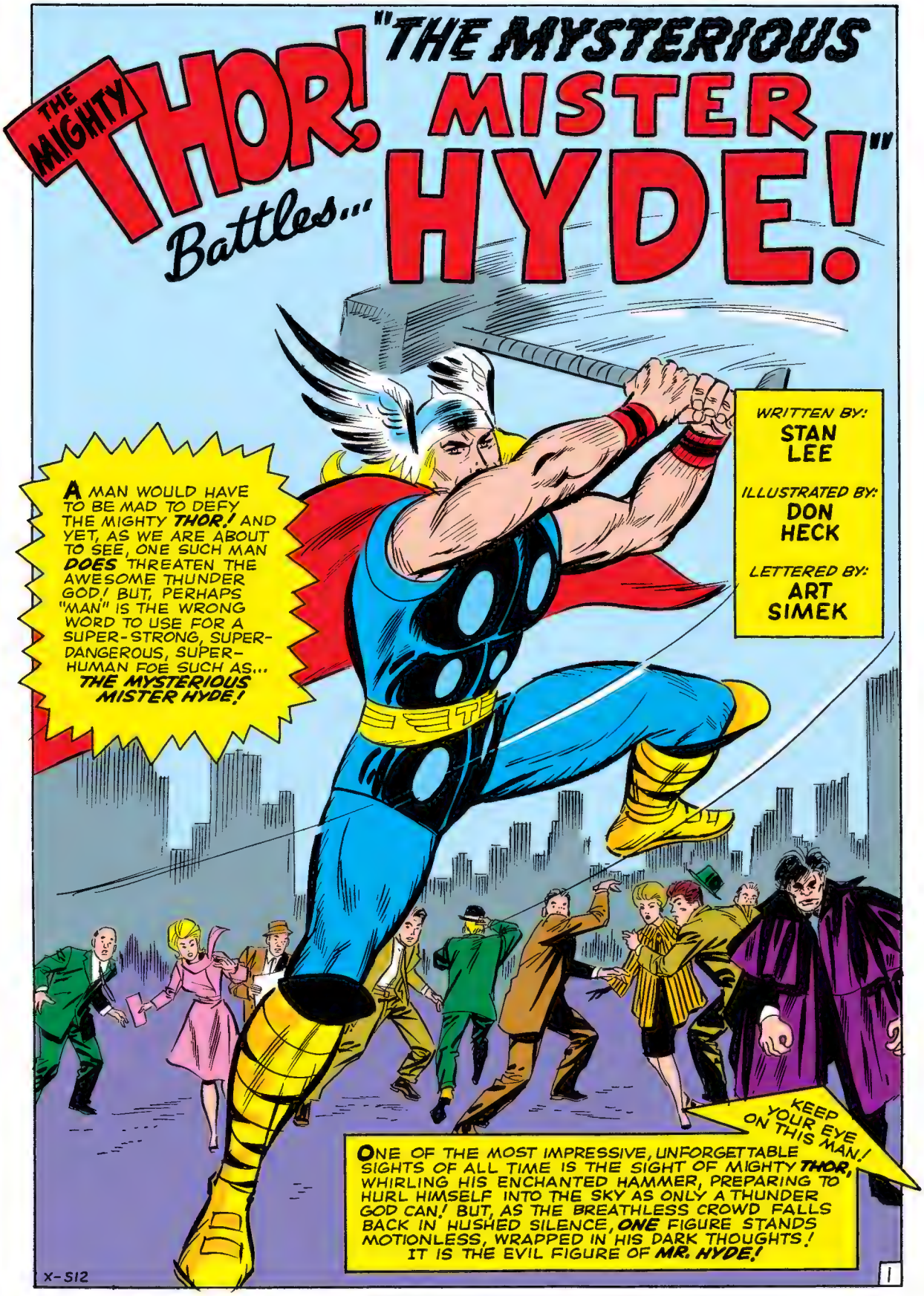

BUT, REACHING THE ARRID, VOLCANIC AREA HE SEEKS, THE MONARCH OF THE GODS SUDDENLY STOPS, TURNS, AND THEN...
I HAVE TRAPPED YOU, YMIR! BEFORE YOU CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, I STRIKE THIS VERY SPOT...

...RELEASING THE ONE FORCE WHICH CAN DEFEAT YOU... THE FIERY, SMOLDERING FLAMES FROM THE DEPTHS BELOW!


AND SO YMIR, THE LAST OF THE DREADED ICE GIANTS, BECOMES AN ETERNAL PRISONER ON THAT BARREN SPOT, SURROUNDED BY A WALL HE CAN NEVER PENETRATE!


WHILST NOBLE ODIN, RULER OF THE GODS, RETURNS TO HIS THRONE IN ASGARD!
THE END
NEXT ISSUE: SURTUR the FIRE DEMON!

JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
IND.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
99 DEC.
THE MIGHTY THOR
MEETS THE MOST DRAMATIC SUPER-FOE OF THE YEAR.....
THE MYSTERIOUS MISTER HYDE!
IT IS TIME FOR MIGHTY THOR TO BECOME WEAK DOCTOR BLAKE AGAIN...
...I HOPE NO NEW MENACE SHOWS UP NOW... FOR I'D BE HELPLESS TO FIGHT IT!
MISTER HYDE! STRONGER THAN A DOZEN MEN! MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANY MERE MORTAL!
ALSO: YOU WILL MEET SURTUR, THE FIRE DEMON IN THIS ISSUE'S "TALES of ASGARD!"


THE MIGHTY THOR!
"THE MYSTERIOUS MISTER HYDE!"
Battles...
WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATED BY: DON HECK
LETTERED BY: ART SIMEK
A MAN WOULD HAVE TO BE MAD TO DEFY THE MIGHTY THOR! AND YET, AS WE ARE ABOUT TO SEE, ONE SUCH MAN DOES THREATEN THE AWESOME THUNDER GOD! BUT, PERHAPS "MAN" IS THE WRONG WORD TO USE FOR A SUPER-STRONG, SUPER-DANGEROUS, SUPER-HUMAN FOE SUCH AS... THE MYSTERIOUS MISTER HYDE!
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THIS MAN!
ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE, UNFORGETTABLE SIGHTS OF ALL TIME IS THE SIGHT OF MIGHTY THOR, WHIRLING HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER, PREPARING TO HURL HIMSELF INTO THE SKY AS ONLY A THUNDER GOD CAN! BUT, AS THE BREATHLESS CROWD FALLS BACK IN HUSHED SILENCE, ONE FIGURE STANDS MOTIONLESS, WRAPPED IN HIS DARK THOUGHTS! IT IS THE EVIL FIGURE OF MR. HYDE!
X-512
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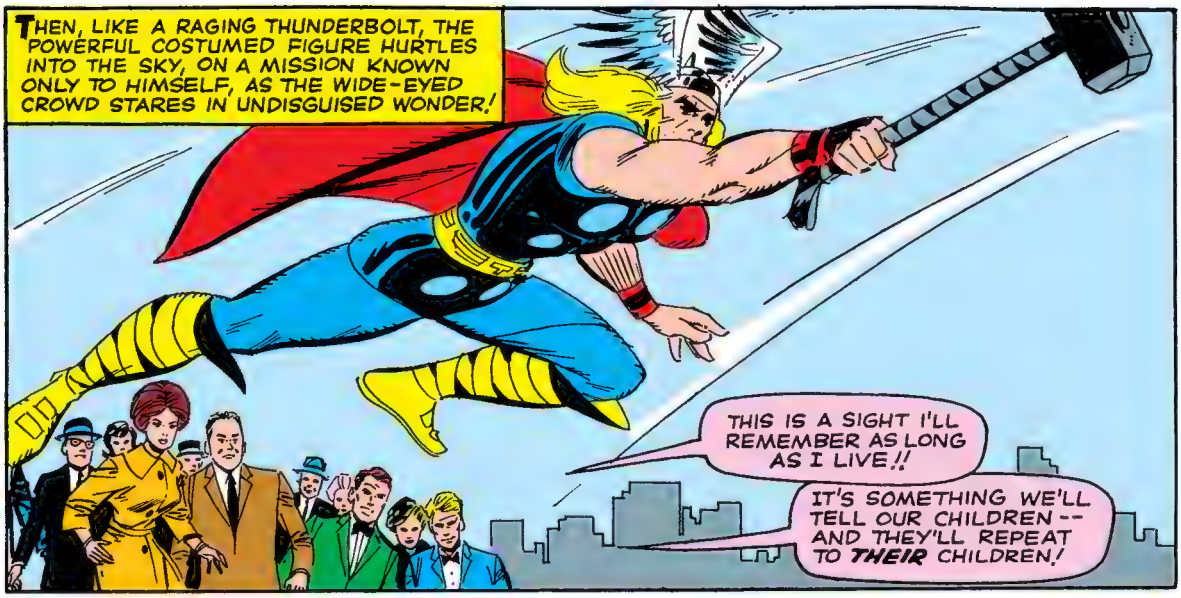
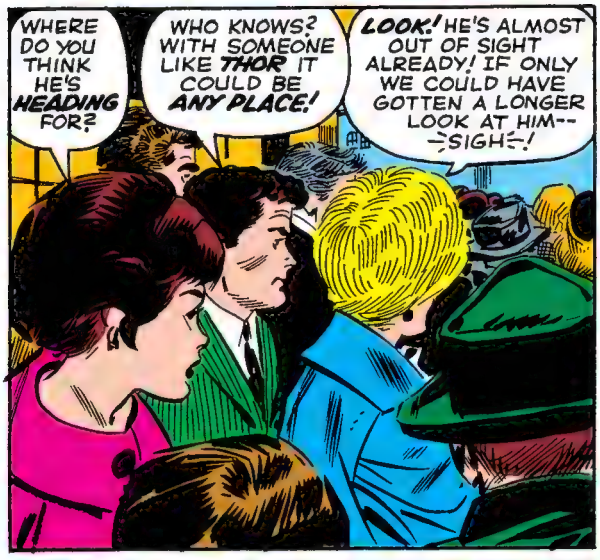
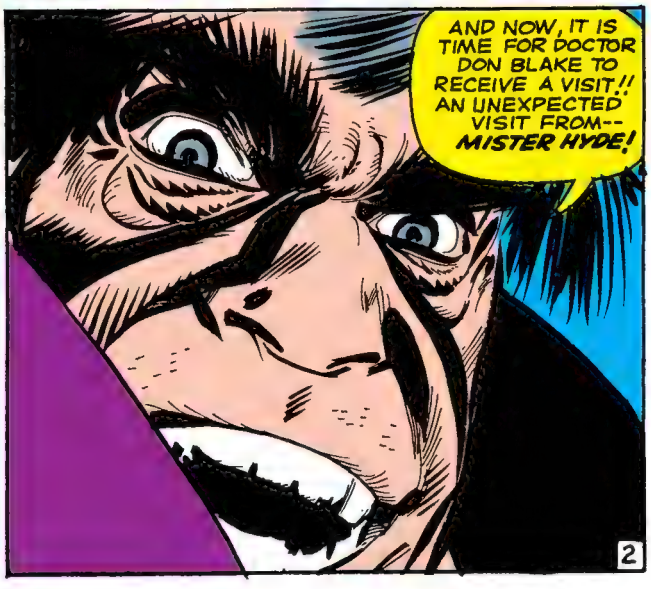
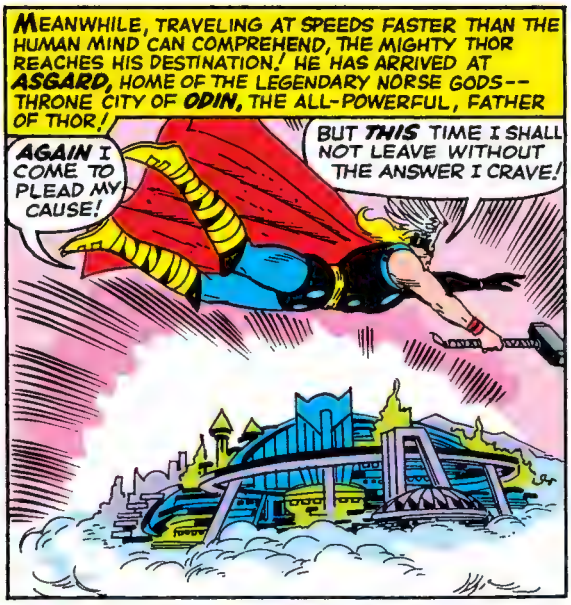

THEN, LIKE A RAGING THUNDERBOLT, THE POWERFUL COSTUMED FIGURE HURTLES INTO THE SKY, ON A MISSION KNOWN ONLY TO HIMSELF, AS THE WIDE-EYED CROWD STARES IN UNDISGUISED WONDER!
THIS IS A SIGHT I'LL REMEMBER AS LONG AS I LIVE!!
IT'S SOMETHING WE'LL TELL OUR CHILDREN -- AND THEY'LL REPEAT TO THEIR CHILDREN!

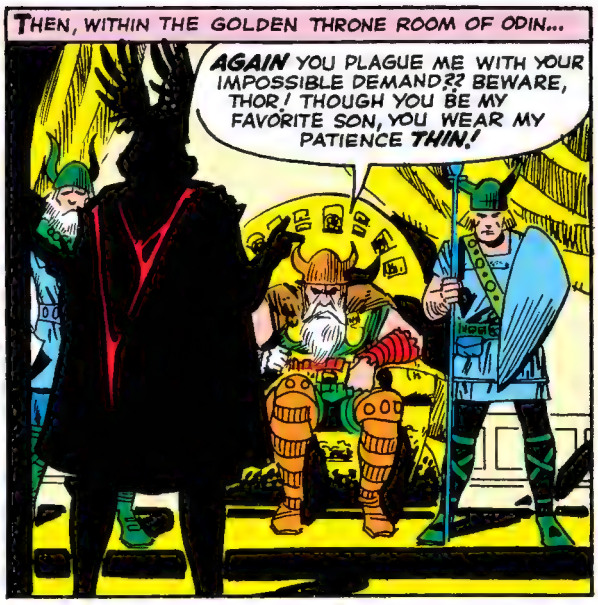

WHERE DO YOU THINK HE'S HEADING FOR?
WHO KNOWS? WITH SOMEONE LIKE THOR IT COULD BE ANY PLACE!
LOOK! HE'S ALMOST OUT OF SIGHT ALREADY! IF ONLY WE COULD HAVE GOTTEN A LONGER LOOK AT HIM-- -SIGH-!

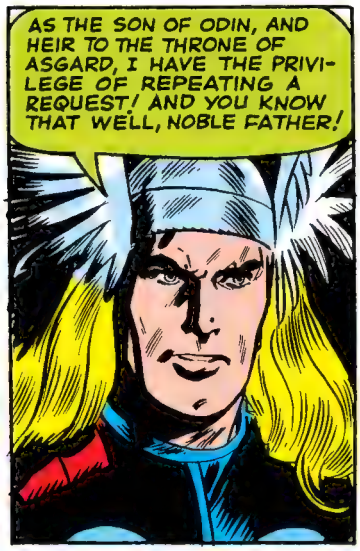
BUT, WITHIN THE CROWD, ONE MAN--IF MAN HE IS--FEELS NO REGRET AT SEEING THOR VANISH INTO THE BLUE...
I'VE--I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO REPULSIVE--SO FRIGHTENING!!
HE'S GONE! GOOD! THIS MAKES EVERYTHING PERFECT!

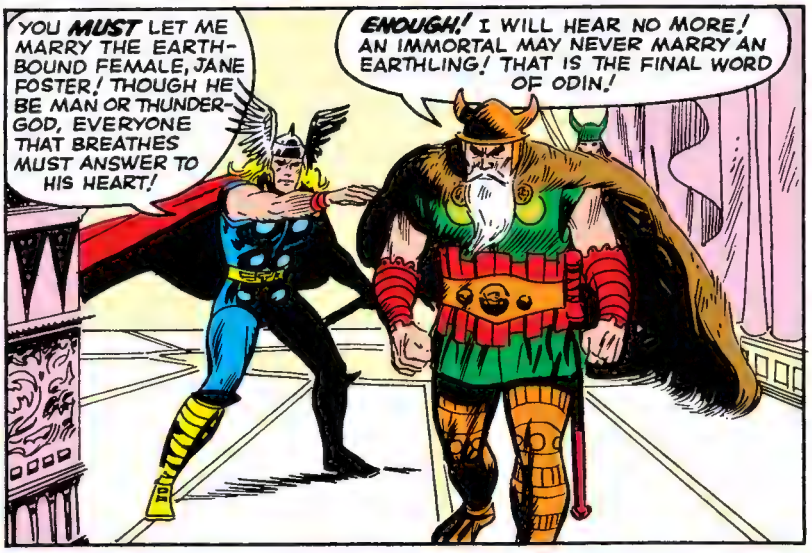
WITH THOR OUT OF THE CITY, THERE IS NO ONE STRONG ENOUGH TO FRUSTRATE MY PLANS!


AND NOW, IT IS TIME FOR DOCTOR DON BLAKE TO RECEIVE A VISIT!! AN UNEXPECTED VISIT FROM-- MISTER HYDE!

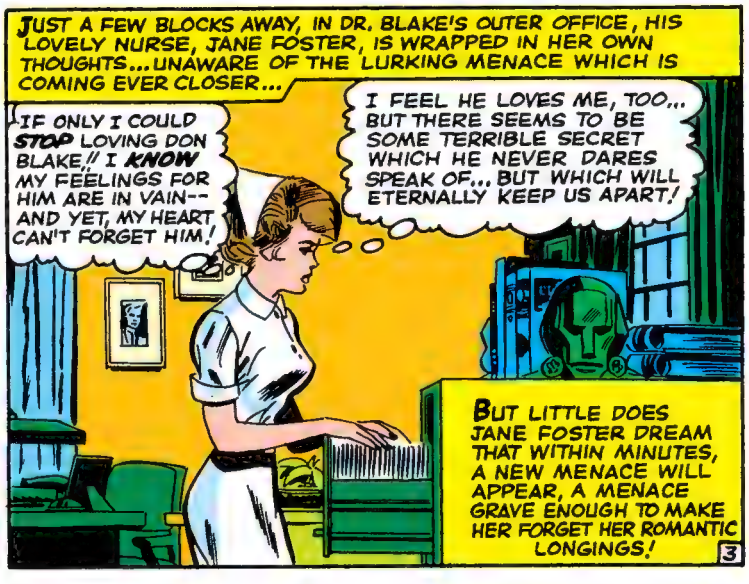

MEANWHILE, TRAVELING AT SPEEDS FASTER THAN THE HUMAN MIND CAN COMPREHEND, THE MIGHTY THOR REACHES HIS DESTINATION! HE HAS ARRIVED AT ASGARD, HOME OF THE LEGENDARY NORSE GODS--THRONE CITY OF ODIN, THE ALL-POWERFUL, FATHER OF THOR!
AGAIN I COME TO PLEAD MY CAUSE!
BUT THIS TIME I SHALL NOT LEAVE WITHOUT THE ANSWER I CRAVE!


THEN, WITHIN THE GOLDEN THRONE ROOM OF ODIN...
AGAIN YOU PLAGUE ME WITH YOUR IMPOSSIBLE DEMAND?? BEWARE, THOR! THOUGH YOU BE MY FAVORITE SON, YOU WEAR MY PATIENCE THIN!


AS THE SON OF ODIN, AND HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ASGARD, I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF REPEATING A REQUEST! AND YOU KNOW THAT WELL, NOBLE FATHER!

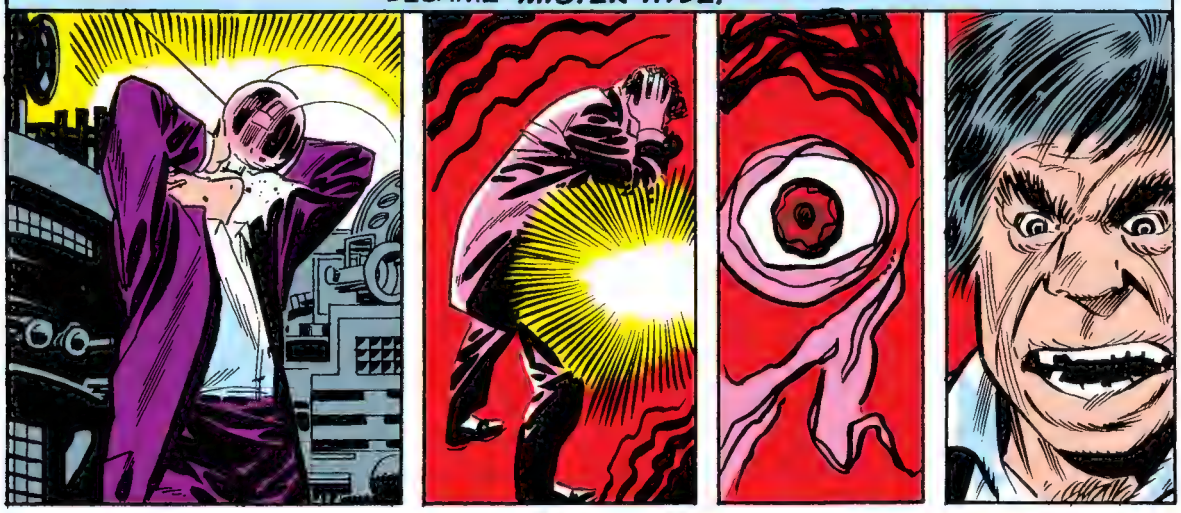

YOU MUST LET ME MARRY THE EARTH-BOUND FEMALE, JANE FOSTER! THOUGH HE BE MAN OR THUNDER-GOD, EVERYONE THAT BREATHES MUST ANSWER TO HIS HEART!
ENOUGH! I WILL HEAR NO MORE! AN IMMORTAL MAY NEVER MARRY AN EARTHLING! THAT IS THE FINAL WORD OF ODIN!

AND, AS TEMPERS REACH THE BOILING POINT IN ASGARD, ON THE EARTH BELOW, A POWERFUL, SMIRKING FIGURE WALKS THROUGH THE STREETS ON A SINISTER MISSION...
THE TIME HAS COME FOR DR. DON BLAKE TO REPAY AN OLD DEBT TO MR. HYDE! AND I SHALL SEE THAT I AM PAID IN FULL!


JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY, IN DR. BLAKE'S OUTER OFFICE, HIS LOVELY NURSE, JANE FOSTER, IS WRAPPED IN HER OWN THOUGHTS... UNAWARE OF THE LURKING MENACE WHICH IS COMING EVER CLOSER...
IF ONLY I COULD STOP LOVING DON BLAKE!! I KNOW MY FEELINGS FOR HIM ARE IN VAIN--AND YET, MY HEART CAN'T FORGET HIM!
I FEEL HE LOVES ME, TOO... BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME TERRIBLE SECRET WHICH HE NEVER DARES SPEAK OF... BUT WHICH WILL ETERNALLY KEEP US APART!
BUT LITTLE DOES JANE FOSTER DREAM THAT WITHIN MINUTES, A NEW MENACE WILL APPEAR, A MENACE GRAVE ENOUGH TO MAKE HER FORGET HER ROMANTIC LONGINGS!

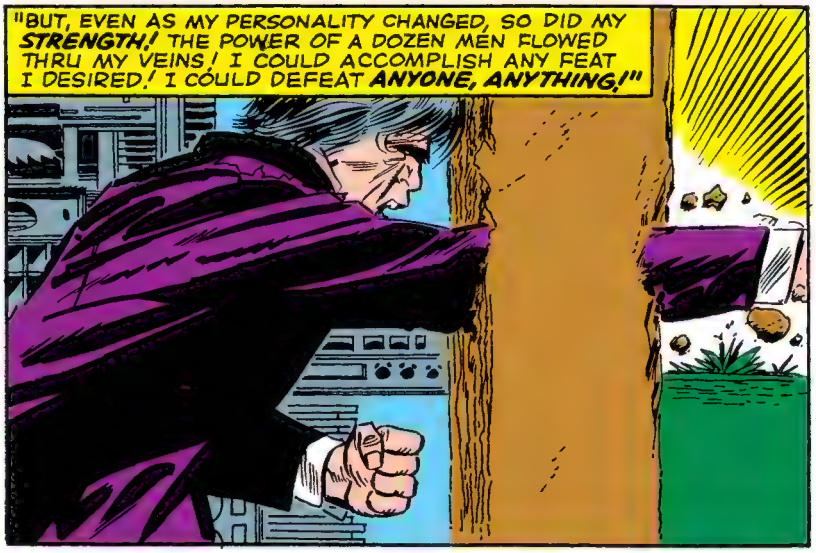
FOR, IN THE STREET BELOW, MR. HYDE PAUSES BEFORE ENTERING BLAKE'S BUILDING...PAUSES TO REFLECT UPON THE PAST...
BLAKE DOES NOT SUSPECT WHAT I HAVE BECOME!
"HE HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT MY STRENGTH HAS BEEN MAGNIFIED A DOZEN TIMES, SO THAT I AM AS POWERFUL AS ANY TWELVE NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS! BUT, HE IS SOON TO LEARN OF MR. HYDE--AND SO IS THE REST OF MANKIND!"
HA! HA! HA!
"NOR WILL HE SUSPECT THAT I AM THE SAME MAN WHO ONCE CALLED HIMSELF CALVIN ZABO, AND WHO CAME TO SEE HIM ONLY A FEW SHORT MONTHS AGO..."
DR. DON BLAKE! I HAVE HEARD OF HIM! HE IS THE FAMOUS LAME DOCTOR!
DIRECTORY
IT SHOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER TO GET A JOB WITH HIM, AND THEN ROB HIM LATER, AT MY LEISURE!
"BUT BLAKE PROVED TO BE LESS UNSUSPECTING THAN I THOUGHT!"
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU, ZABO! YOU'RE NO GOOD! YOU'VE BEEN FIRED FROM EVERY JOB YOU'VE EVER HELD! I CAN'T USE YOU! SHOW HIM OUT, MISS FOSTER!
SO! YOU DARE HUMILIATE CALVIN ZABO THIS WAY!! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, BLAKE! I PROMISE YOU!
"I HATED HIM! HE HAD EVERYTHING! WEALTH, FAME, A BEAUTIFUL NURSE! I KNEW I HAD TO FIND A WAY TO HARM HIM --SOMEHOW!"
"AND AS I LEFT, THE GERM OF AN IDEA BEGAN TO HATCH IN MY BRAIN AS I VOWED BITTER VENGEANCE UPON DR. DON BLAKE!"
SLAM
(EDITOR'S NOTE: NATURALLY, THE MAN CALLED CALVIN ZABO HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT THE FRAIL DOCTOR WHOM HE HATES, AND THE MIGHTY THOR, ARE ONE AND THE SAME!! FOR, IF HE SUSPECTED... BUT, MORE OF THAT LATER....!)
"FOR YEARS, I HAD BEEN FASCINATED BY THE TALE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE! I HAD ALWAYS FELT IT WAS MORE THAN JUST AN IMAGINARY STORY-- I FELT IT COULD HAPPEN! AND SO..."
I KNOW IT MUST BE POSSIBLE TO CHANGE A HUMAN BEING--CHANGE HIM SO THAT HIS BASER NATURE TAKES OVER, JUST AS HAPPENED TO DR. JEKYLL! AND IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT...
4

"AND SO I DRANK THE POTION I HAD CREATED! AND THEN, THE CHANGE BEGAN! JUST AS ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON HAD DESCRIBED IT IN HIS CLASSIC TALE, IN HIS TALE WHICH WAS ***TRUER*** THAN HE HAD DREAMT! I CHANGED! I BECAME WHAT I HAD ***WANTED*** TO BECOME -- I BECAME ***MISTER HYDE!***"

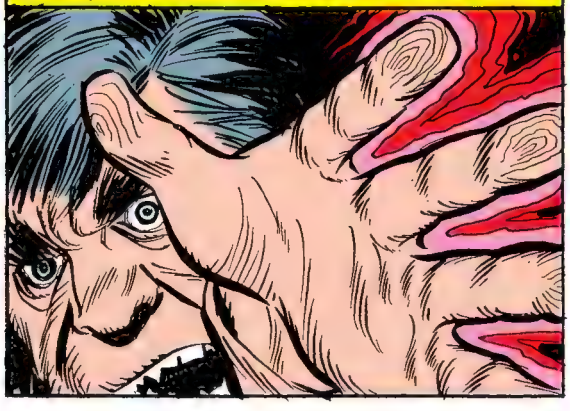


"AND, WITH THAT CHANGE, CAME A HATRED OF HUMANITY--AND A DESIRE TO TRIUMPH OVER THE WEAKER HUMAN RACE!"

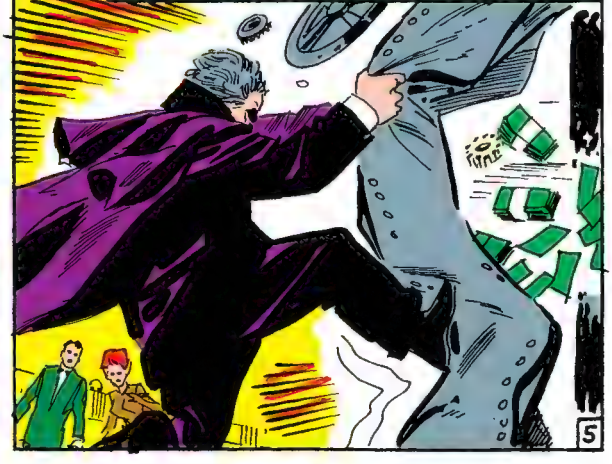
"BUT, EVEN AS MY PERSONALITY CHANGED, SO DID MY ***STRENGTH!*** THE POWER OF A DOZEN MEN FLOWED THRU MY VEINS! I COULD ACCOMPLISH ANY FEAT I DESIRED! I COULD DEFEAT ***ANYONE, ANYTHING!***"

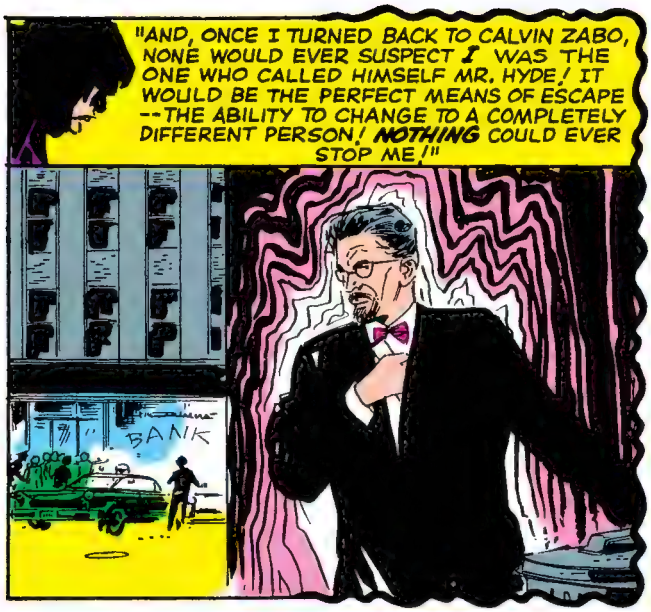


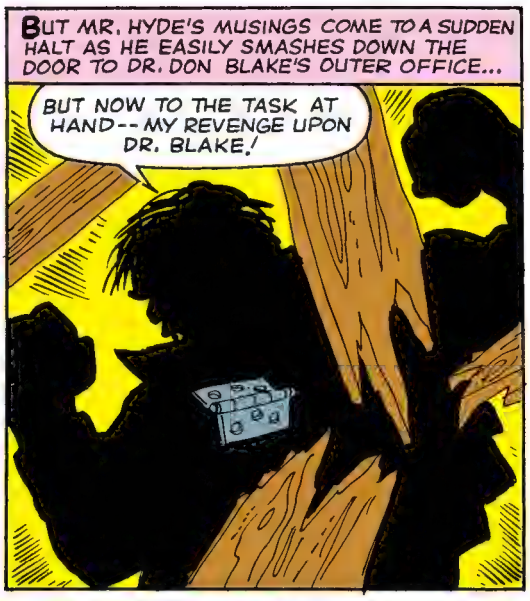
"THEN, I REALIZED THE MOST WONDERFUL THING! NO MATTER WHAT CRIME I COMMITTED, NO ONE WOULD EVER SUSPECT MY TRUE SELF, CALVIN ZABO--FOR EVEN MY ***FINGERPRINTS*** HAD CHANGED WHEN I BECAME MR. HYDE! THIS MEANT I COULD DO ***ANYTHING*** AS MISTER HYDE, AND ONCE CHANGING BACK TO CALVIN ZABO, I WOULD BE SAFE FROM ARREST!"



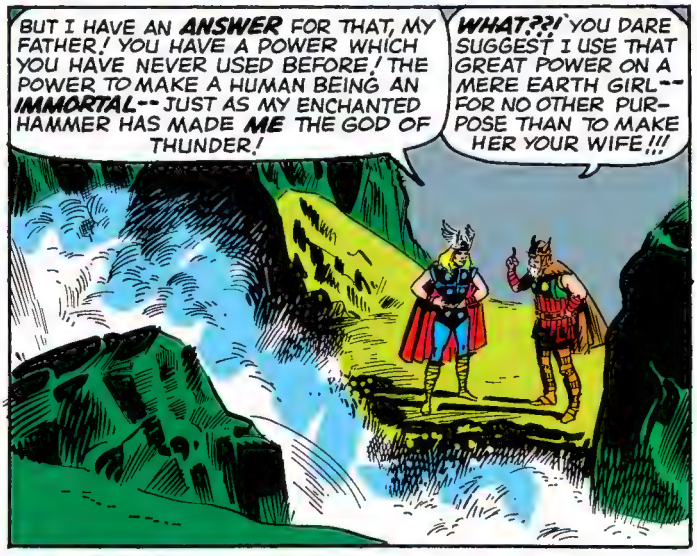
"AND, WITH MY NEW-FOUND STRENGTH, WHAT MASSIVE CRIMES I COULD COMMIT! EVEN THE STRONGEST BANK VAULT DOORS WOULD CRUMBLE BEFORE MY MIGHTY GRASP--"



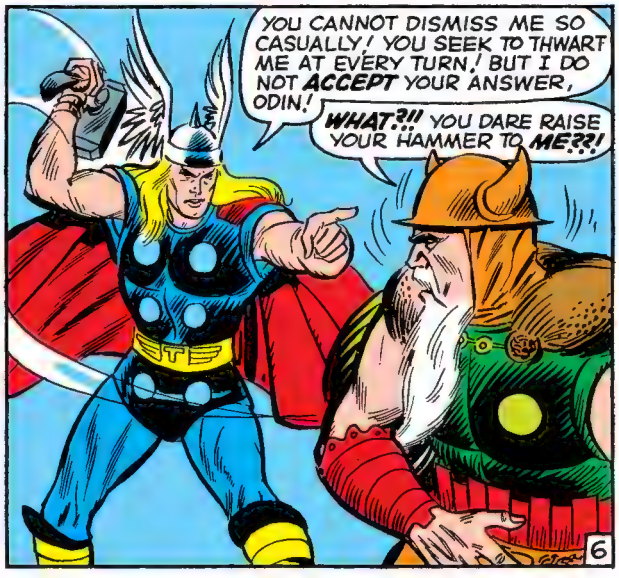

"AND, ONCE I TURNED BACK TO CALVIN ZABO, NONE WOULD EVER SUSPECT I WAS THE ONE WHO CALLED HIMSELF MR. HYDE! IT WOULD BE THE PERFECT MEANS OF ESCAPE --THE ABILITY TO CHANGE TO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON! NOTHING COULD EVER STOP ME!"
BANK


BUT MR. HYDE'S MUSINGS COME TO A SUDDEN HALT AS HE EASILY SMASHES DOWN THE DOOR TO DR. DON BLAKE'S OUTER OFFICE...
BUT NOW TO THE TASK AT HAND-- MY REVENGE UPON DR. BLAKE!

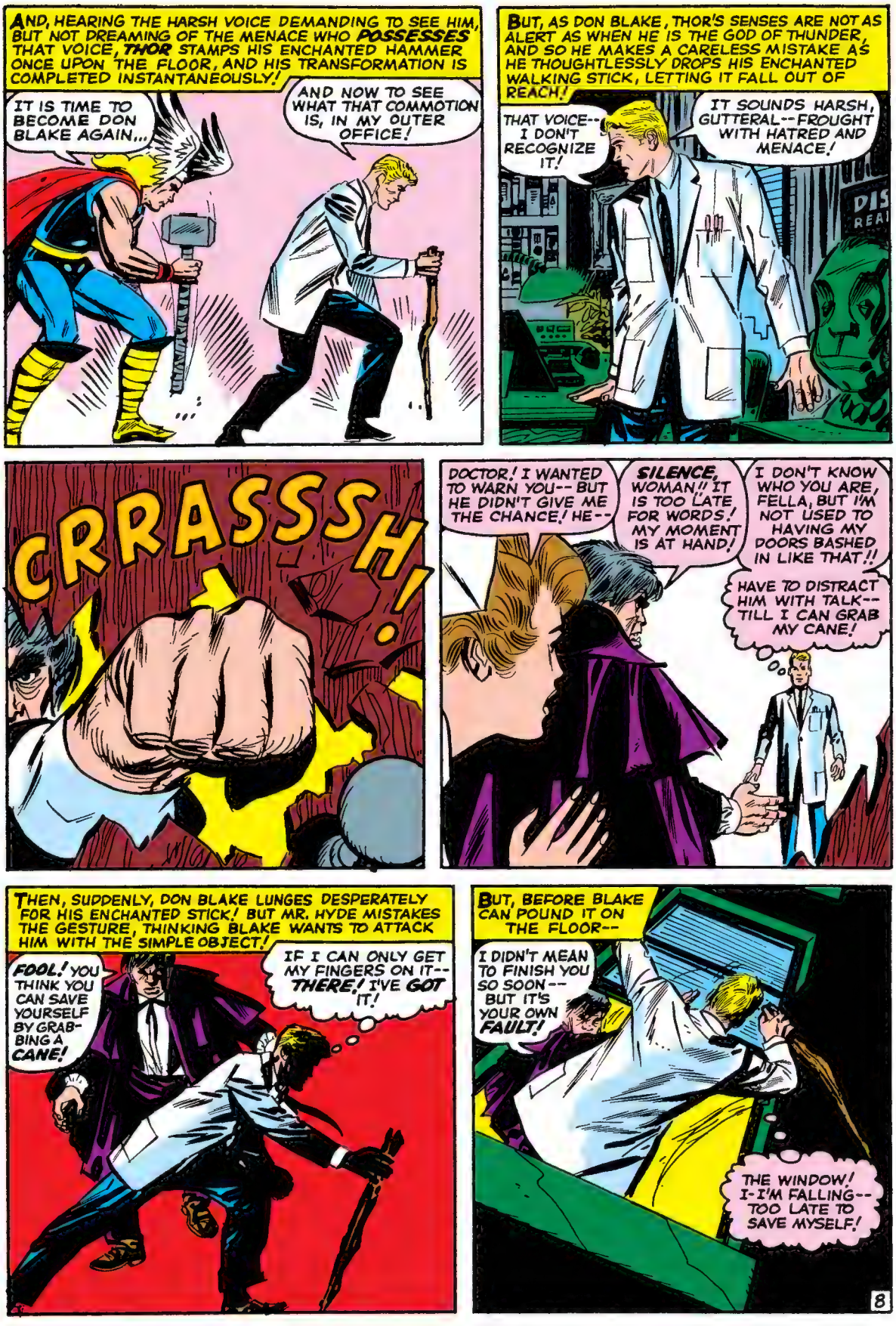
MEANWHILE, IN ASGARD, THOR DOES NOT REALIZE THAT AN ENEMY HAS INVADED THE OFFICE OF HIS EARTHLY ALTER EGO!
NOBLE ODIN, YOU MUST NOT TURN AWAY FROM ME! YOU MUST HEAR MY PETITION!
IT IS USELESS! AN IMMORTAL MAY NOT MARRY A MORTAL! THAT IS THE LAW! NOTHING MORE REMAINS TO BE SAID!

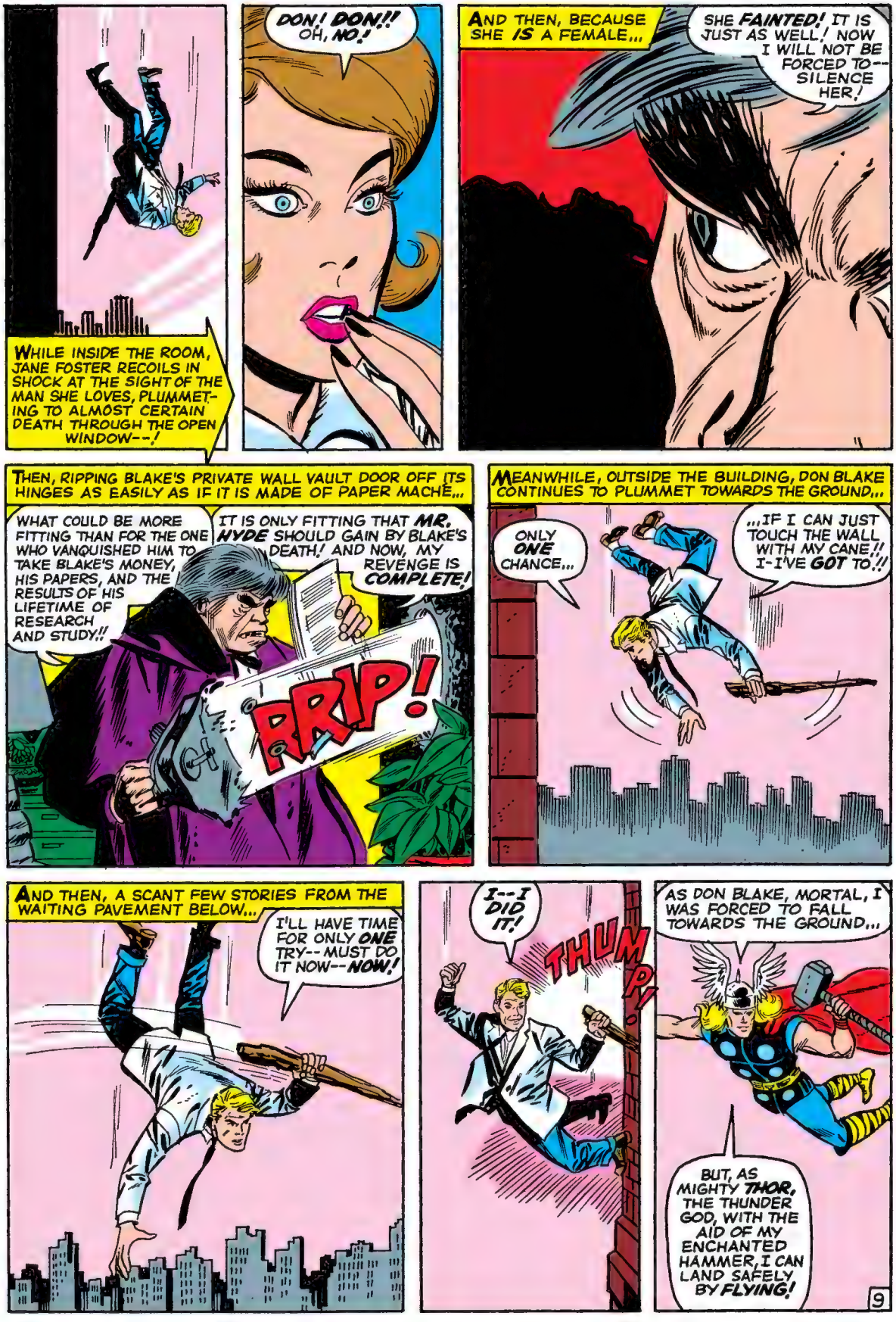

BUT I HAVE AN ANSWER FOR THAT, MY FATHER! YOU HAVE A POWER WHICH YOU HAVE NEVER USED BEFORE! THE POWER TO MAKE A HUMAN BEING AN IMMORTAL-- JUST AS MY ENCHANTED HAMMER HAS MADE ME THE GOD OF THUNDER!
WHAT?!! YOU DARE SUGGEST I USE THAT GREAT POWER ON A MERE EARTH GIRL-- FOR NO OTHER PURPOSE THAN TO MAKE HER YOUR WIFE!!!

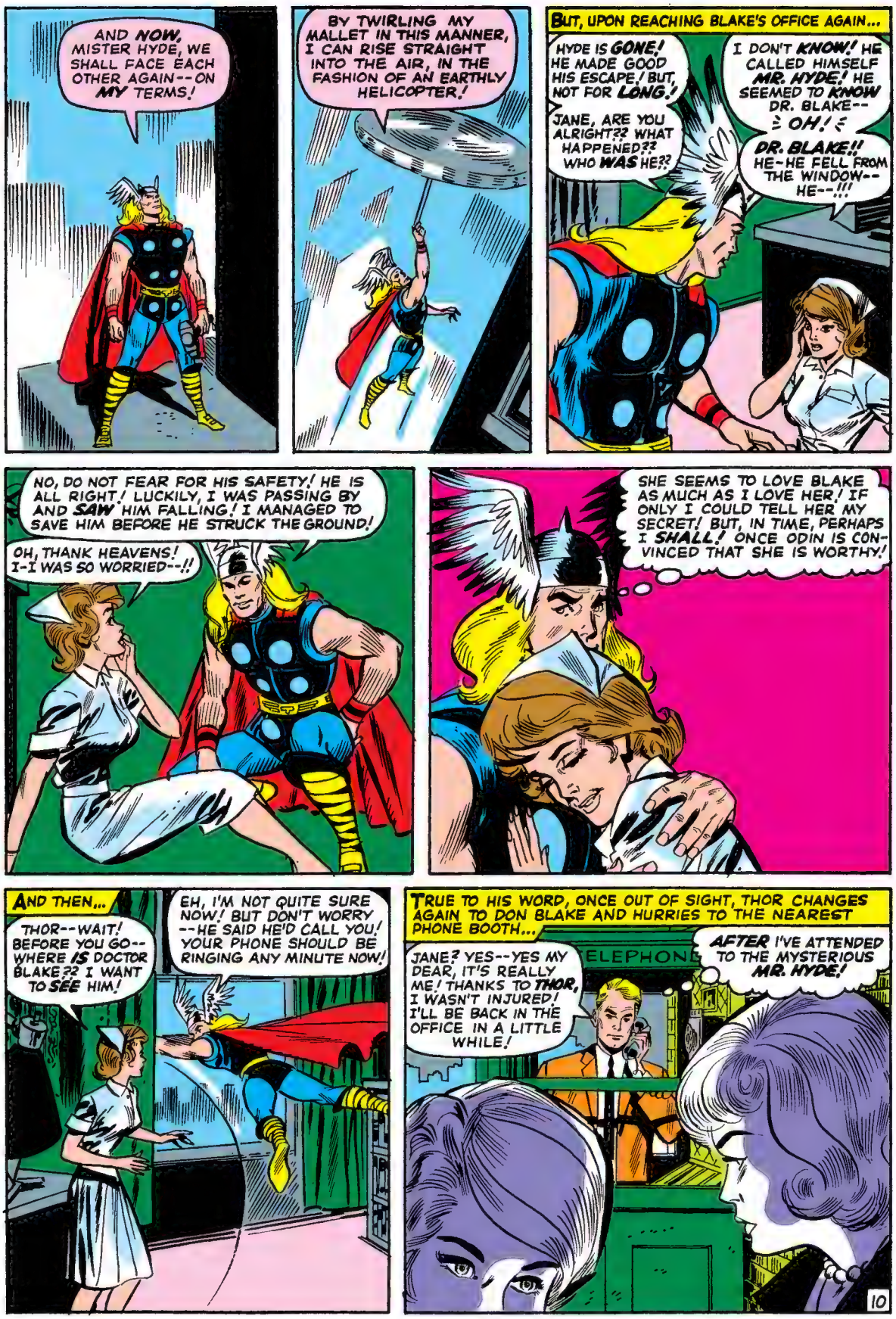
TO BECOME AN IMMORTAL, ONE MUST BE PROVEN TO BE NOBLE, UNSELFISH, FEARLESS, AND POSSESSING VIRTUES FAR IN EXCESS OF THOSE WHICH THE ORDINARY EARTHBOUND HUMAN POSSESSES! AND THIS YOU KNOW FULL WELL, MY SON!

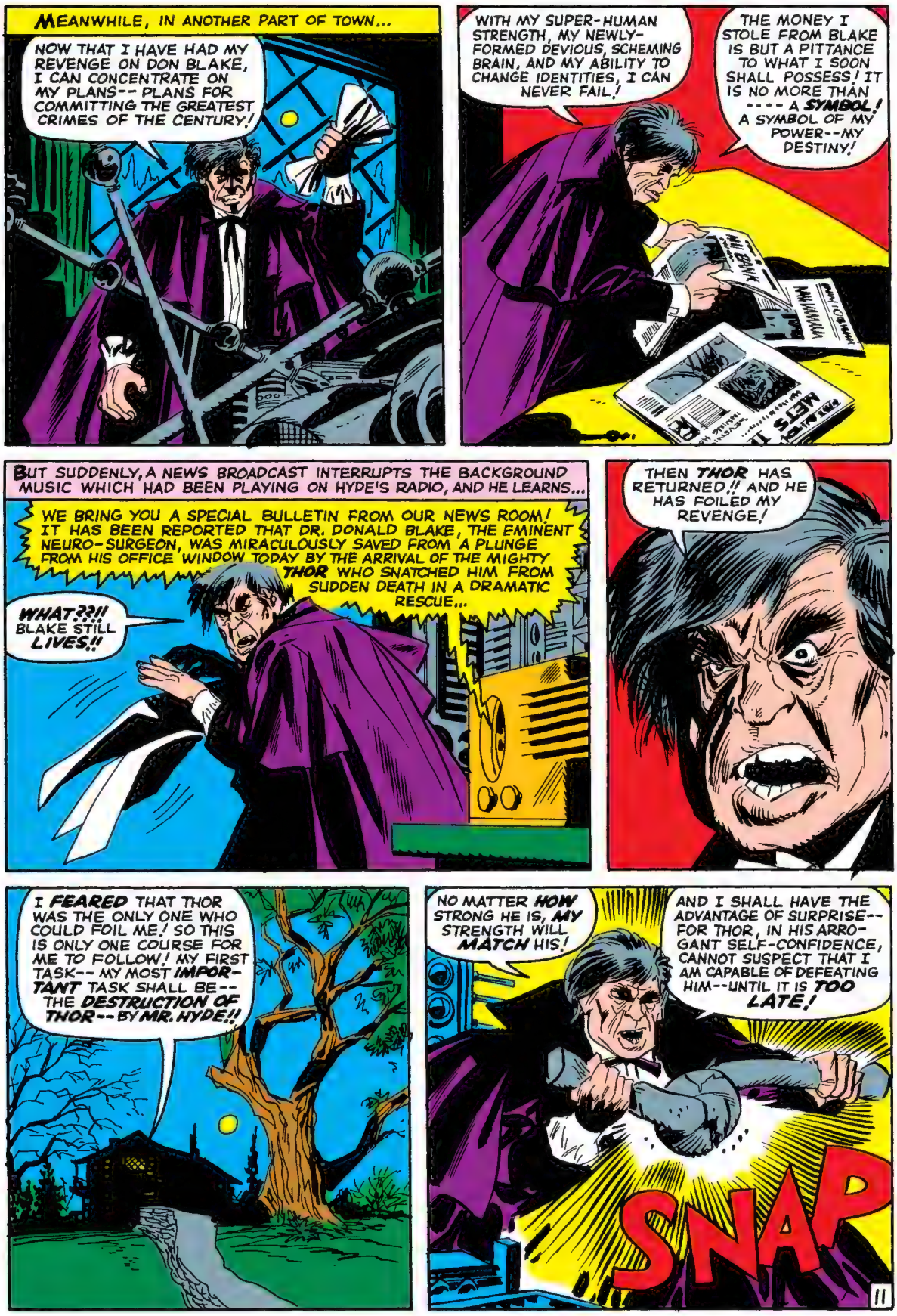

YOU CANNOT DISMISS ME SO CASUALLY! YOU SEEK TO THWART ME AT EVERY TURN! BUT I DO NOT ACCEPT YOUR ANSWER, ODIN!
WHAT?!! YOU DARE RAISE YOUR HAMMER TO ME?!!

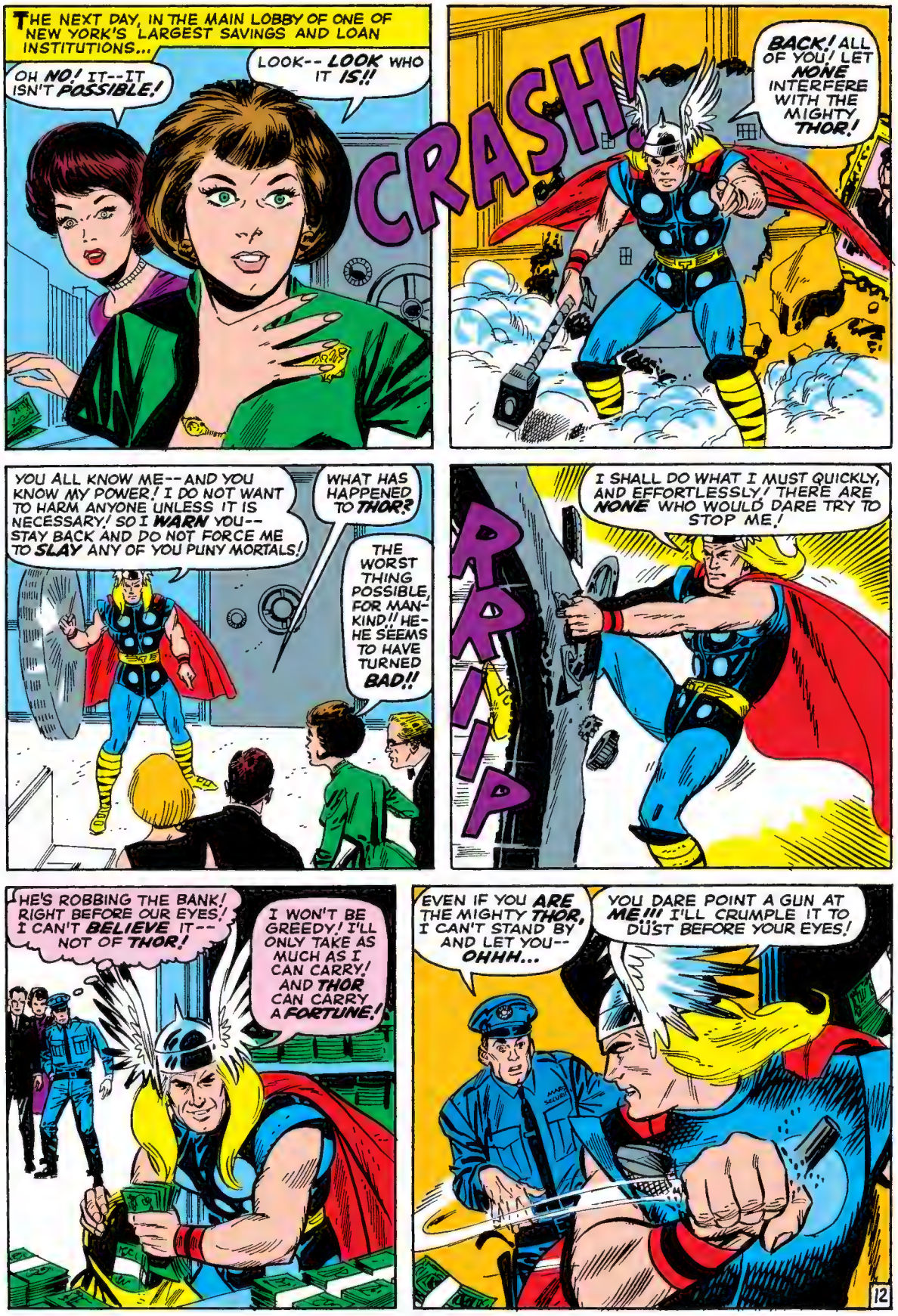
FORGIVE ME, MY FATHER! IT WAS AN INVOLUNTARY GESTURE! I MEANT YOU NO HARM! I--
OHHH!
SILENCE! EVEN A THUNDER GOD MUST BE TAUGHT HUMILITY!
STUNNED MOMENTARILY BY ODIN'S MIGHTY POWER-BLAST, THOR STAGGERS BACK--AND THE SIGHT OF HIS REPENTFUL SON TOUCHES THE HEART OF THE NOBLE MONARCH...
I AM SADDENED THAT I MUST CAUSE ANGUISH TO THE SON I LOVE! PERHAPS I YET MAY LEAVE A CRUMB OF HOPE FOR HIM TO CLING TO...
AND SO... GO NOW, THOR, AND HEED MY FINAL WORDS: SHOULD THE EARTHLING YOU LOVE PROVE HERSELF WORTHY OF IMMORTALITY, THEN YOU MAY COME TO ME AGAIN AND I SHALL LISTEN TO YOUR PETITION!
THEN THERE IS STILL HOPE, MY FATHER! I THANK YOU FOR THAT!
THEN, JOYOUSLY, LIKE A FLYING, FLASHING STREAK, THE MIGHTY THOR HURTLES EARTHWARD...
THERE STILL IS HOPE! SHE MAY YET BE MINE!
WHERE A HUMAN CAN BE STRONG, A THUNDER GOD IS MIGHTY! WHERE A HUMAN CAN BE FAST, A THUNDER GOD IS LIGHTNING SWIFT! AND, WHERE A HUMAN MIGHT BE HAPPY, A THUNDER GOD'S UNBRIDLED JOY KNOWS NO LIMITS!!!
SHE MAY YET BE MINE! HA HA-- MINE!
AND SO, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THE MIGHTY THOR SWINGS INTO DR. BLAKE'S PRIVATE OFFICE THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW, AT THE VERY SAME INSTANT AS ANOTHER DRAMATIC EVENT TAKES PLACE...
NOW TO CHANGE TO DR. BLAKE BEFORE JANE CAN ENTER THE ROOM AND DISCOVER ME!
IN THE OUTER OFFICE, AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, THE REPELLENT FORM OF MR. HYDE SMASHES THROUGH THE LOCKED DOOR, AND NOW OUR TALE BEGINS TO MOVE INTO HIGH GEAR...
TAKE ME TO DOCTOR BLAKE, AT ONCE! MISTER HYDE COMMANDS YOU!
THAT FACE! THAT INHUMAN STRENGTH!! WHO--WHAT ARE YOU??!
7


AND, HEARING THE HARSH VOICE DEMANDING TO SEE HIM, BUT NOT DREAMING OF THE MENACE WHO POSSESSES THAT VOICE, THOR STAMPS HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER ONCE UPON THE FLOOR, AND HIS TRANSFORMATION IS COMPLETED INSTANTANEOUSLY!
IT IS TIME TO BECOME DON BLAKE AGAIN...
AND NOW TO SEE WHAT THAT COMMOTION IS, IN MY OUTER OFFICE!
BUT, AS DON BLAKE, THOR'S SENSES ARE NOT AS ALERT AS WHEN HE IS THE GOD OF THUNDER, AND SO HE MAKES A CARELESS MISTAKE AS HE THOUGHTLESSLY DROPS HIS ENCHANTED WALKING STICK, LETTING IT FALL OUT OF REACH!
THAT VOICE-- I DON'T RECOGNIZE IT!
IT SOUNDS HARSH, GUTTERAL--FROUGHT WITH HATRED AND MENACE!
CRRASSSH!
DOCTOR! I WANTED TO WARN YOU-- BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE ME THE CHANCE! HE--
SILENCE, WOMAN!! IT IS TOO LATE FOR WORDS! MY MOMENT IS AT HAND!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, FELLA, BUT I'M NOT USED TO HAVING MY DOORS BASHED IN LIKE THAT!!
I HAVE TO DISTRACT HIM WITH TALK-- TILL I CAN GRAB MY CANE!
THEN, SUDDENLY, DON BLAKE LUNGES DESPERATELY FOR HIS ENCHANTED STICK! BUT MR. HYDE MISTAKES THE GESTURE, THINKING BLAKE WANTS TO ATTACK HIM WITH THE SIMPLE OBJECT!
FOOL! YOU THINK YOU CAN SAVE YOURSELF BY GRABBING A CANE!
IF I CAN ONLY GET MY FINGERS ON IT-- THERE! I'VE GOT IT!
BUT, BEFORE BLAKE CAN POUND IT ON THE FLOOR--
I DIDN'T MEAN TO FINISH YOU SO SOON-- BUT IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT!
THE WINDOW! I-I'M FALLING-- TOO LATE TO SAVE MYSELF!
8

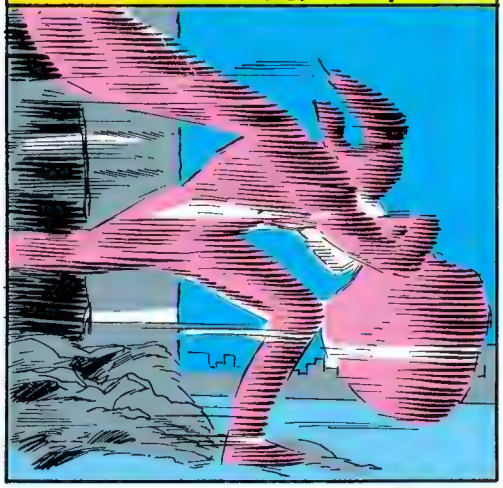

WHILE INSIDE THE ROOM, JANE FOSTER RECOILS IN SHOCK AT THE SIGHT OF THE MAN SHE LOVES, PLUMMETING TO ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW--!
DON! DON!! OH, NO!
AND THEN, BECAUSE SHE IS A FEMALE...
SHE FAINTED! IT IS JUST AS WELL! NOW I WILL NOT BE FORCED TO-- SILENCE HER!
THEN, RIPPING BLAKE'S PRIVATE WALL VAULT DOOR OFF ITS HINGES AS EASILY AS IF IT IS MADE OF PAPER MACHÉ...
WHAT COULD BE MORE FITTING THAN FOR THE ONE WHO VANQUISHED HIM TO TAKE BLAKE'S MONEY, HIS PAPERS, AND THE RESULTS OF HIS LIFETIME OF RESEARCH AND STUDY!!
IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT MR. HYDE SHOULD GAIN BY BLAKE'S DEATH! AND NOW, MY REVENGE IS COMPLETE!
RRIP!
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE BUILDING, DON BLAKE CONTINUES TO PLUMMET TOWARDS THE GROUND...
ONLY ONE CHANCE...
...IF I CAN JUST TOUCH THE WALL WITH MY CANE!! I-I'VE GOT TO!!
AND THEN, A SCANT FEW STORIES FROM THE WAITING PAVEMENT BELOW...
I'LL HAVE TIME FOR ONLY ONE TRY-- MUST DO IT NOW-- NOW!
I--I DID IT!
THUMP!
AS DON BLAKE, MORTAL, I WAS FORCED TO FALL TOWARDS THE GROUND...
BUT, AS MIGHTY THOR, THE THUNDER GOD, WITH THE AID OF MY ENCHANTED HAMMER, I CAN LAND SAFELY BY FLYING!
9


AND NOW, MISTER HYDE, WE SHALL FACE EACH OTHER AGAIN--ON MY TERMS!
BY TWIRLING MY MALLET IN THIS MANNER, I CAN RISE STRAIGHT INTO THE AIR, IN THE FASHION OF AN EARTHLY HELICOPTER!
BUT, UPON REACHING BLAKE'S OFFICE AGAIN...
HYDE IS GONE! HE MADE GOOD HIS ESCAPE! BUT, NOT FOR LONG!
JANE, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?? WHAT HAPPENED?? WHO WAS HE??
I DON'T KNOW! HE CALLED HIMSELF MR. HYDE! HE SEEMED TO KNOW DR. BLAKE--
≥ OH! ≤
DR. BLAKE!! HE-HE FELL FROM THE WINDOW-- HE--!!!
NO, DO NOT FEAR FOR HIS SAFETY! HE IS ALL RIGHT! LUCKILY, I WAS PASSING BY AND SAW HIM FALLING! I MANAGED TO SAVE HIM BEFORE HE STRUCK THE GROUND!
OH, THANK HEAVENS! I-I WAS SO WORRIED--!!
SHE SEEMS TO LOVE BLAKE AS MUCH AS I LOVE HER! IF ONLY I COULD TELL HER MY SECRET! BUT, IN TIME, PERHAPS I SHALL! ONCE ODIN IS CONVINCED THAT SHE IS WORTHY!
AND THEN...
THOR--WAIT! BEFORE YOU GO-- WHERE IS DOCTOR BLAKE?? I WANT TO SEE HIM!
EH, I'M NOT QUITE SURE NOW! BUT DON'T WORRY --HE SAID HE'D CALL YOU! YOUR PHONE SHOULD BE RINGING ANY MINUTE NOW!
TRUE TO HIS WORD, ONCE OUT OF SIGHT, THOR CHANGES AGAIN TO DON BLAKE AND HURRIES TO THE NEAREST PHONE BOOTH...
ELEPHONE
JANE? YES--YES MY DEAR, IT'S REALLY ME! THANKS TO THOR, I WASN'T INJURED! I'LL BE BACK IN THE OFFICE IN A LITTLE WHILE!
AFTER I'VE ATTENDED TO THE MYSTERIOUS MR. HYDE!
10

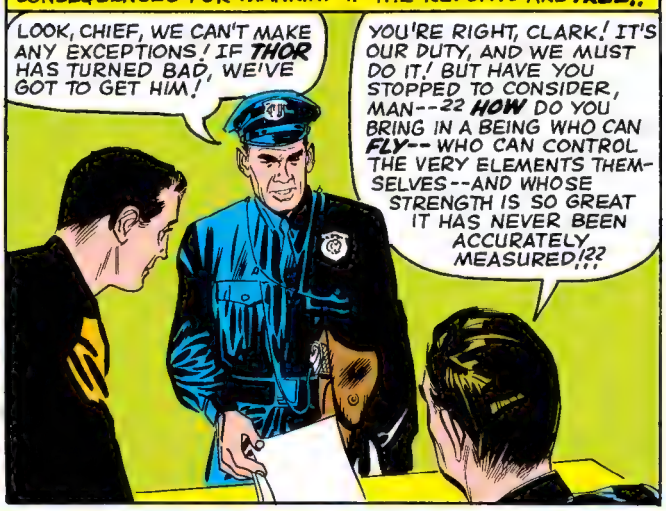

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN...
NOW THAT I HAVE HAD MY REVENGE ON DON BLAKE, I CAN CONCENTRATE ON MY PLANS-- PLANS FOR COMMITTING THE GREATEST CRIMES OF THE CENTURY!
WITH MY SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH, MY NEWLY-FORMED DEVIOUS, SCHEMING BRAIN, AND MY ABILITY TO CHANGE IDENTITIES, I CAN NEVER FAIL!
THE MONEY I STOLE FROM BLAKE IS BUT A PITTANCE TO WHAT I SOON SHALL POSSESS! IT IS NO MORE THAN ---- A SYMBOL! A SYMBOL OF MY POWER--MY DESTINY!
BUT SUDDENLY, A NEWS BROADCAST INTERRUPTS THE BACKGROUND MUSIC WHICH HAD BEEN PLAYING ON HYDE'S RADIO, AND HE LEARNS...
WE BRING YOU A SPECIAL BULLETIN FROM OUR NEWS ROOM! IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT DR. DONALD BLAKE, THE EMINENT NEURO-SURGEON, WAS MIRACULOUSLY SAVED FROM A PLUNGE FROM HIS OFFICE WINDOW TODAY BY THE ARRIVAL OF THE MIGHTY THOR WHO SNATCHED HIM FROM SUDDEN DEATH IN A DRAMATIC RESCUE...
WHAT???!! BLAKE STILL LIVES!!
THEN THOR HAS RETURNED!! AND HE HAS FOILED MY REVENGE!
I FEARED THAT THOR WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD FOIL ME! SO THIS IS ONLY ONE COURSE FOR ME TO FOLLOW! MY FIRST TASK-- MY MOST IMPORTANT TASK SHALL BE-- THE DESTRUCTION OF THOR-- BY MR. HYDE!!
NO MATTER HOW STRONG HE IS, MY STRENGTH WILL MATCH HIS!
AND I SHALL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE-- FOR THOR, IN HIS ARROGANT SELF-CONFIDENCE, CANNOT SUSPECT THAT I AM CAPABLE OF DEFEATING HIM--UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE!
SNAP
11


THE NEXT DAY, IN THE MAIN LOBBY OF ONE OF NEW YORK'S LARGEST SAVINGS AND LOAN INSTITUTIONS...
OH NO! IT--IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
LOOK-- LOOK WHO IT IS!!
CRASH!
BACK! ALL OF YOU! LET NONE INTERFERE WITH THE MIGHTY THOR!
YOU ALL KNOW ME--AND YOU KNOW MY POWER! I DO NOT WANT TO HARM ANYONE UNLESS IT IS NECESSARY! SO I WARN YOU-- STAY BACK AND DO NOT FORCE ME TO SLAY ANY OF YOU PUNY MORTALS!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THOR?
THE WORST THING POSSIBLE, FOR MANKIND!! HE-HE SEEMS TO HAVE TURNED BAD!!
RRIIP
I SHALL DO WHAT I MUST QUICKLY, AND EFFORTLESSLY! THERE ARE NONE WHO WOULD DARE TRY TO STOP ME!
HE'S ROBBING THE BANK! RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT-- NOT OF THOR!
I WON'T BE GREEDY! I'LL ONLY TAKE AS MUCH AS I CAN CARRY! AND THOR CAN CARRY A FORTUNE!
EVEN IF YOU ARE THE MIGHTY THOR, I CAN'T STAND BY AND LET YOU-- OHHH...
YOU DARE POINT A GUN AT ME!!! I'LL CRUMPLE IT TO DUST BEFORE YOUR EYES!
12

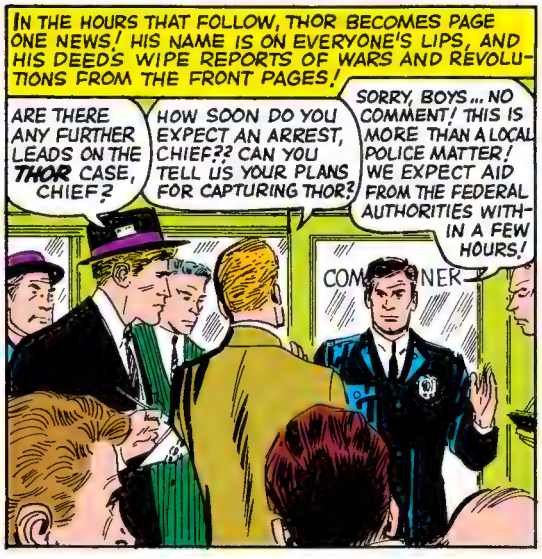
THEN, BEFORE ANYONE CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, THE THUNDER GOD TURNS AND RACES FROM THE BANK WITH BLINDING SPEED, CARRYING THE HEAVY MONEY BAGS AS THOUGH THEY ARE ***WEIGHTLESS!***



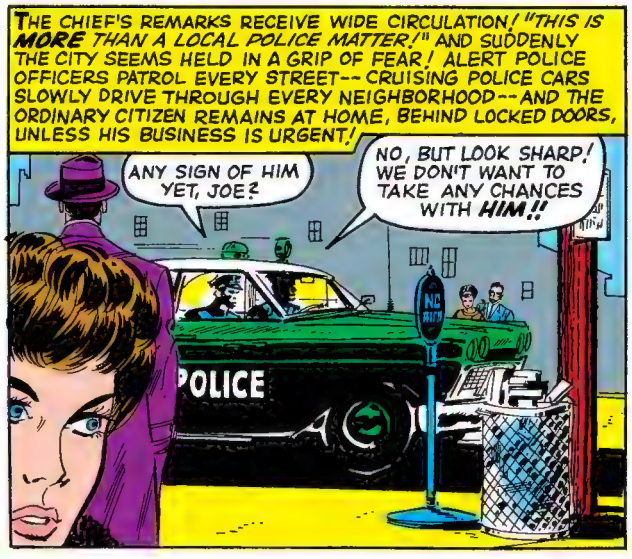
WITHIN MINUTES, THE NEWS IS FLASHED TO AN INCREDULOUS WORLD, AS A STARTLED HUMANITY FINDS ITSELF UNABLE TO BELIEVE WHAT IT HAS HEARD--UNABLE TO IMAGINE THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR MANKIND IF THE REPORTS ARE ***TRUE!!***


LOOK, CHIEF, WE CAN'T MAKE ANY EXCEPTIONS! IF ***THOR*** HAS TURNED BAD, WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CLARK! IT'S OUR DUTY, AND WE MUST DO IT! BUT HAVE YOU STOPPED TO CONSIDER, MAN--22 ***HOW*** DO YOU BRING IN A BEING WHO CAN ***FLY***-- WHO CAN CONTROL THE VERY ELEMENTS THEMSELVES--AND WHOSE STRENGTH IS SO GREAT IT HAS NEVER BEEN ACCURATELY MEASURED!!!22

IN THE HOURS THAT FOLLOW, THOR BECOMES PAGE ONE NEWS! HIS NAME IS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS, AND HIS DEEDS WIPE REPORTS OF WARS AND REVOLUTIONS FROM THE FRONT PAGES!


ARE THERE ANY FURTHER LEADS ON THE ***THOR*** CASE, CHIEF?
HOW SOON DO YOU EXPECT AN ARREST, CHIEF?? CAN YOU TELL US YOUR PLANS FOR CAPTURING THOR?
SORRY, BOYS... NO COMMENT! THIS IS MORE THAN A LOCAL POLICE MATTER! WE EXPECT AID FROM THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES WITHIN A FEW HOURS!

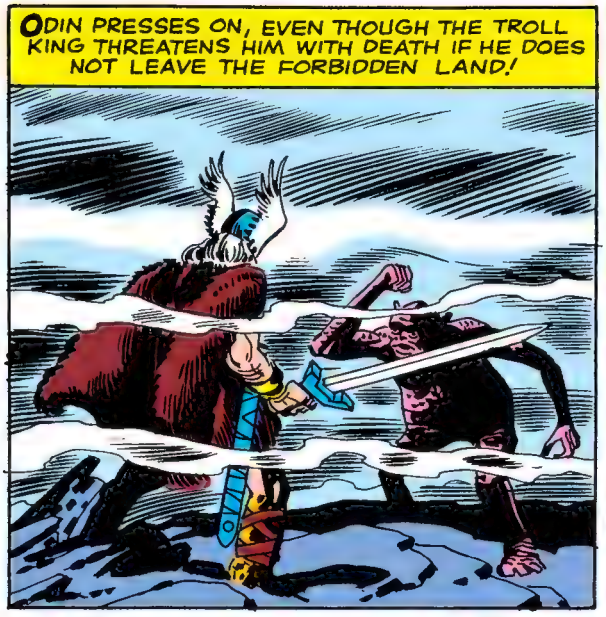
THE CHIEF'S REMARKS RECEIVE WIDE CIRCULATION! "THIS IS ***MORE*** THAN A LOCAL POLICE MATTER!" AND SUDDENLY THE CITY SEEMS HELD IN A GRIP OF FEAR! ALERT POLICE OFFICERS PATROL EVERY STREET--CRUISING POLICE CARS SLOWLY DRIVE THROUGH EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD--AND THE ORDINARY CITIZEN REMAINS AT HOME, BEHIND LOCKED DOORS, UNLESS HIS BUSINESS IS URGENT!



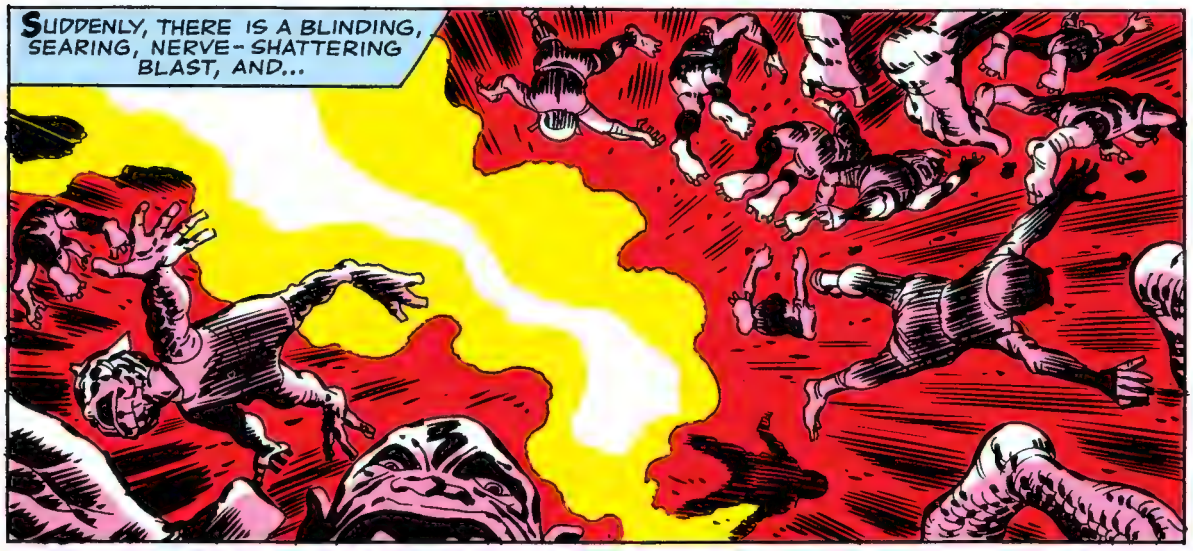
AND, AS THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD TAKES ON THE ASPECT OF A TOWN UNDER SIEGE, WE HALT OUR STORY! BUT THERE IS MUCH MORE TO COME! NEXT ISSUE YOU WILL MARVEL AT THE AMAZING CONCLUSION AS ***THOR*** AND THE ***MYSTERIOUS MISTER HYDE*** MEET AGAIN, FACE-TO-FACE, IN A FIGHT TO THE FINISH! SO, FOR THE STARTLING EXPLANATION TO THE STRANGE EVENTS YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED--AND ONE OF THE MOST THRILLING CLIMAXES YOU HAVE EVER WITNESSED, DON'T DARE MISS THE EPIC 100TH ISSUE OF ***JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!!*** SEE YOU THEN!

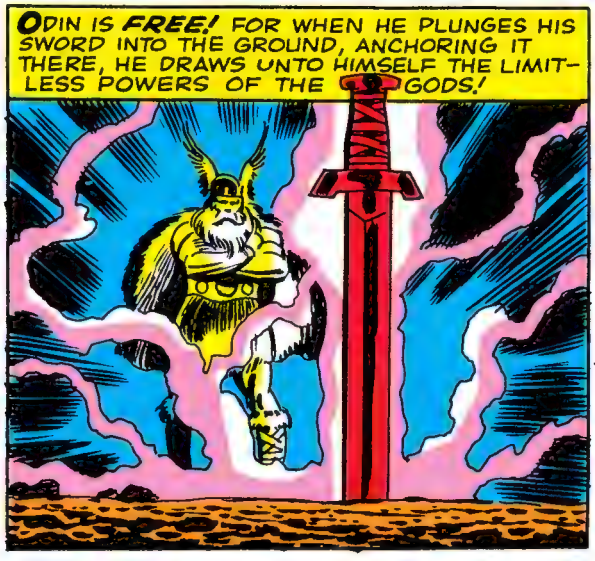
the END

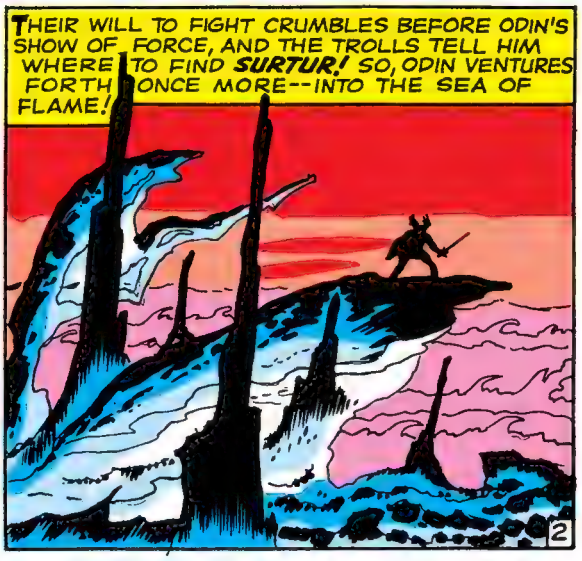
TALES of ASGARD
HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS!
SURTUR
the FIRE DEMON!
EDITOR'S NOTE: ACCORDING TO NORSE LEGEND, THE TROLLS LIVE UNDER HILLS WHICH THEY CRANK UP IN ORDER TO SEE THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
PRESENTED WITH PRIDE BY STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY
THERE ARE NO SECRETS FROM ODIN, KING OF THE GODS! WHEN HE HEARS THAT THE TROLLS HAVE JOINED SURTUR TO REBEL AGAINST ASGARD, THE MIGHTY ODIN PERSONALLY INVADES THE LAND OF THE TROLLS, AND THUS BEGINS OUR LEGENDARY EPIC...
X-498
1


ODIN PRESSES ON, EVEN THOUGH THE TROLL KING THREATENS HIM WITH DEATH IF HE DOES NOT LEAVE THE FORBIDDEN LAND!

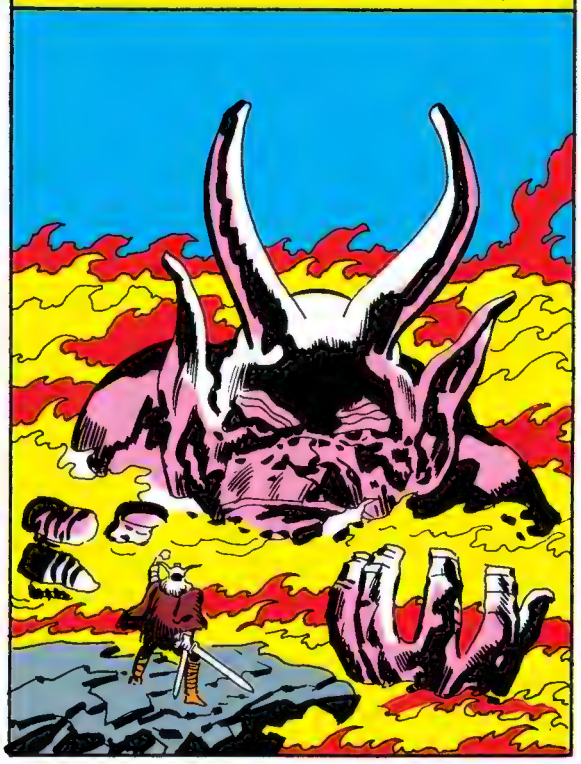
AND THEN, THE TROLLS ATTACK HEROIC ODIN! ODIN, WHOSE POWER IS THE ONLY FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE THAT CAN SHATTER THE UNBREAKABLE GRIP OF A DEADLY TROLL!


SUDDENLY, THERE IS A BLINDING, SEARING, NERVE-SHATTERING BLAST, AND...


ODIN IS FREE! FOR WHEN HE PLUNGES HIS SWORD INTO THE GROUND, ANCHORING IT THERE, HE DRAWS UNTO HIMSELF THE LIMITLESS POWERS OF THE GODS!


THEIR WILL TO FIGHT CRUMBLES BEFORE ODIN'S SHOW OF FORCE, AND THE TROLLS TELL HIM WHERE TO FIND SURTUR! SO, ODIN VENTURES FORTH ONCE MORE--INTO THE SEA OF FLAME!
2

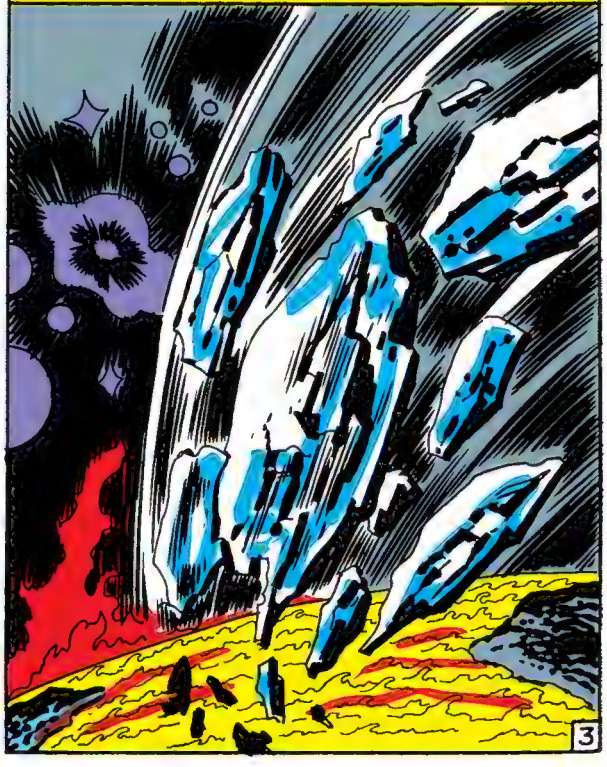
SLOWLY, PONDEROUSLY, THE GIGANTIC HEAD OF EVIL **SURTUR**, KING OF THE FIRE DEMONS, RISES FROM BENEATH THE SWIRLING MASS OF MOLTEN LIQUID--AS ODIN FACES THE MONSTROUS CREATURE--UNAFRAID!



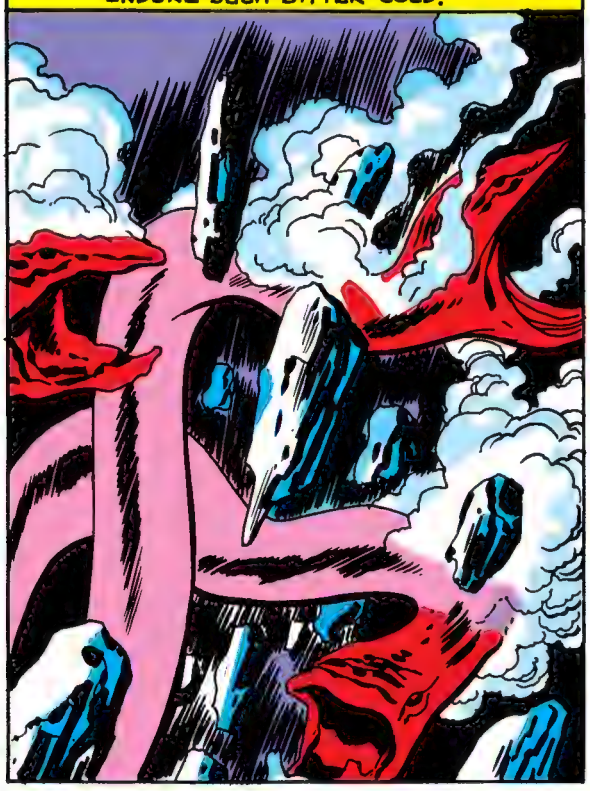
THEN, BEFORE THE VERY EYES OF THE RULER OF THE GODS, SURTUR'S LEFT HAND UNDERGOES AN AWESOME CHANGE--AS HIS FINGERS ARE MAGICALLY TRANSFORMED INTO SINISTER SERPENTS!

BUT, BEFORE THE HUNGRY APPARITIONS CAN STRIKE, ODIN'S GREAT SWORD GESTURES SKYWARD--REACHING THROUGH THE EMPTINESS OF SPACE ITSELF...REACHING TO THE VERY END OF INFINITY!

AND, IN A SPLIT-SECOND, THE FROZEN REMNANTS OF LONG-DEAD PLANETS COME HURTLING DOWN TO SURTUR'S EVIL LAND OF FIRE!



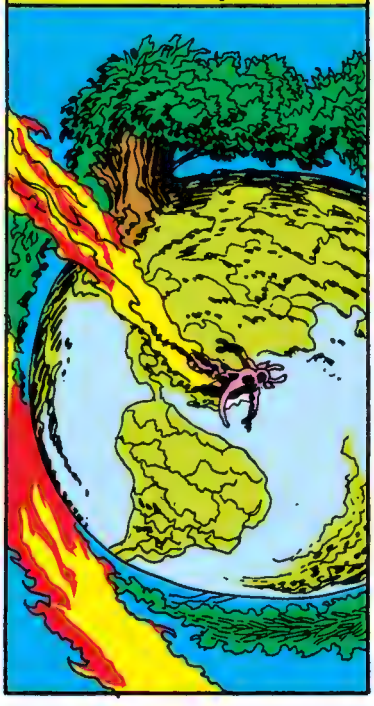
AT THE MOMENT THEY ARE HIT WITH THE ICY SPACE WASTE, THE SERPENTS SHRIVEL UP AND BECOME HARMLESS, FOR FLAME CANNOT ENDURE SUCH BITTER COLD!



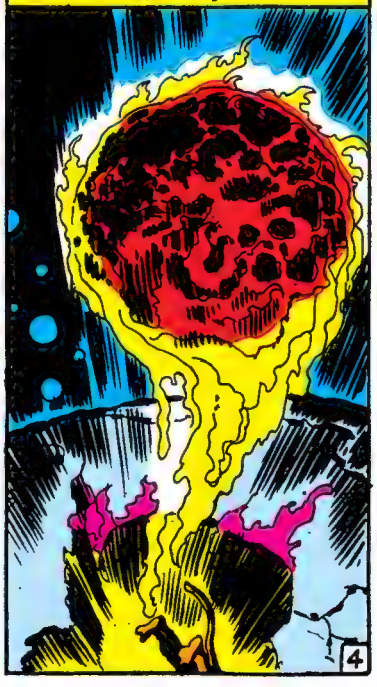
FOR LONG, SILENT MOMENTS, THE TWO MIGHTY ENEMIES FACE EACH OTHER, AS ODIN COMMANDS SURTUR TO OBEY HIS ROYAL COMMANDS--WHILE SURTUR KEEPS HIS DISTANCE, FEROCIOUSLY PLANNING HIS NEXT ATTACK!

AND THEN, SURTUR MAKES HIS MOVE! HE KNOWS HE CANNOT HARM ODIN HIMSELF, SO HE WILL STRIKE AT THE KING OF THE GODS BY DESTROYING THE ONE THING ODIN LOVES...THE PLANET ***EARTH!***

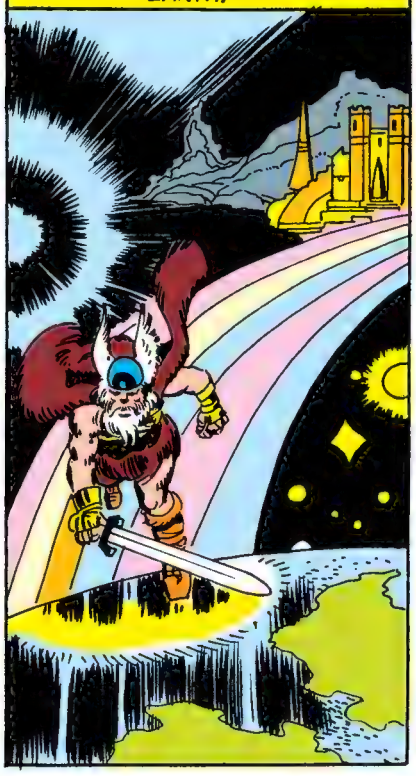
SURTUR REACHES EARTH BEFORE ODIN CAN STOP HIM! EARTH, AROUND WHICH THE MAGIC TREE ***YGGDRASILL*** HAS SPREAD ITS BRANCHES, WHILE AWAITING THE COMING OF ***MAN!***



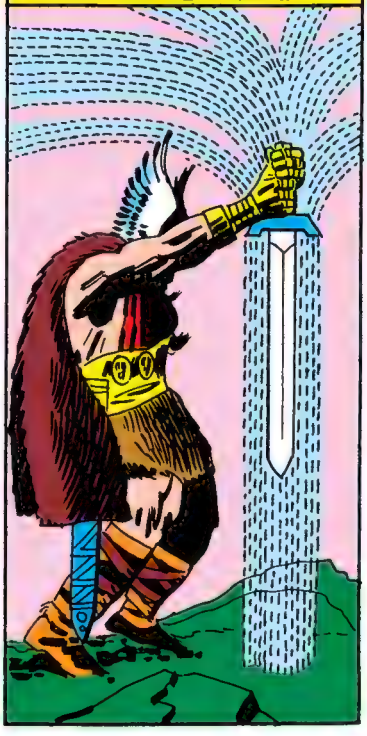
BORING DEEP INTO THE CENTER OF THE PLANET, SURTUR RELEASES A HUGE CHUNK OF MATTER--A CHUNK WHICH FLIES INTO THE SKY WHERE IT WILL SPIN AROUND THE EARTH--AND BE FOREVER KNOWN AS--THE ***MOON!***



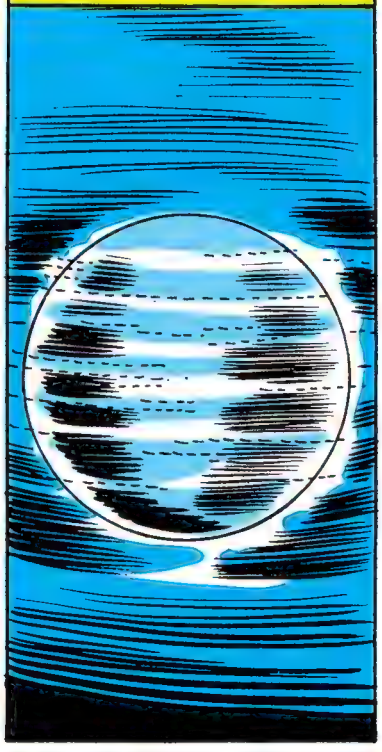
BUT, AT THE HOME OF THE GODS, **ODIN** FORMS THE SPARKLING **RAINBOW BRIDGE,** FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO SPEED HIS WAY TO EARTH!



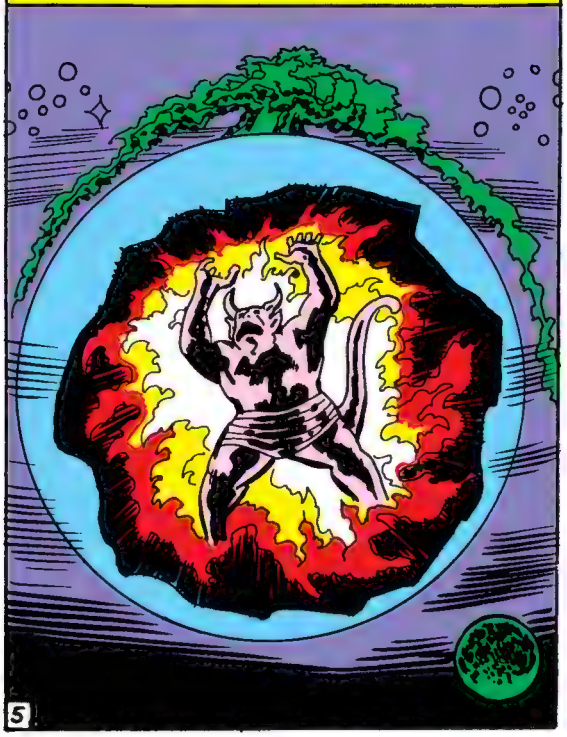
THEN, AFTER REACHING HIS FAVORITE PLANET, ODIN HOLDS HIS GREAT SWORD ABOVE IT, DRAWING ON ALL THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PARTICLES OF THE COSMOS-- AND CONCENTRATING THEM ABOVE THE FERTILE PLANET...



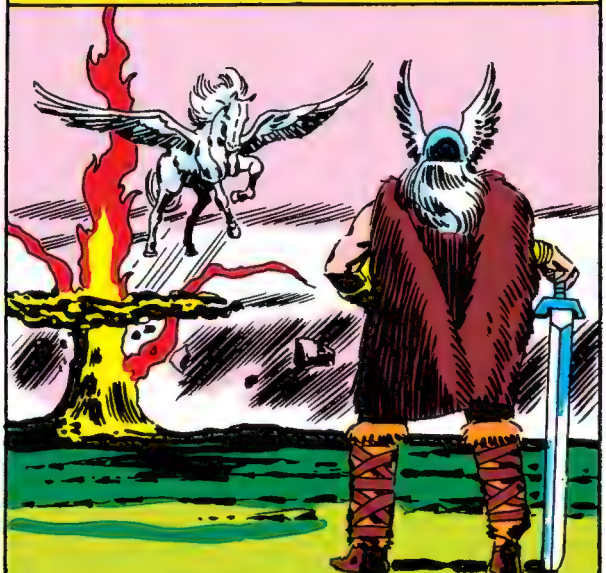
SOON, THE POWERFUL FORCES CAUSE THE EARTH TO BEGIN **SPINNING,** FASTER AND FASTER AROUND THE SUN--AN ENDLESS ROTATION WHICH CONTINUES TO THIS VERY DAY...



AND WHICH TRAPS SURTUR IN THE CENTER OF THE PLANET, HOLDING HIM THERE BY CENTRIFUGAL FORCE-- KEEPING HIM AN ETERNAL PRISONER, WHERE HE FURNISHES HEAT AND ENERGY TO THE PLANET HE HAD HOPED TO DESTROY!



HOPING TO CAUSE ODIN TO SET HIM FREE, SURTUR SENDS A GIFT TO THE VICTORIOUS GOD... A GIFT WHICH FLIES THROUGH THE MOUTH OF A SPOUTING VOLCANO ...IT IS A WONDERFUL WINGED HORSE WHICH ODIN KEEPS--AS THE EVIL SURTUR HOPES THAT ONE DAY ODIN'S WRATH WILL BE APPEASED AND HE'LL BE FREED!



SURTUR CARES NOT **HOW** LONG IT TAKES... HE HAS ALL **ETERNITY** TO WAIT!

NEXT ISSUE: YOU'LL MARVEL AT-- THE **BOYHOOD OF THOR!**

THE END

JOURNEY INTO
IND.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MYSTERY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
100 JAN.
YOU WILL NEVER FORGET
"THOR'S SHOWDOWN WITH MR. HYDE!"
Also: "THE BOYHOOD OF THOR" featured in TALES OF ASGARD!

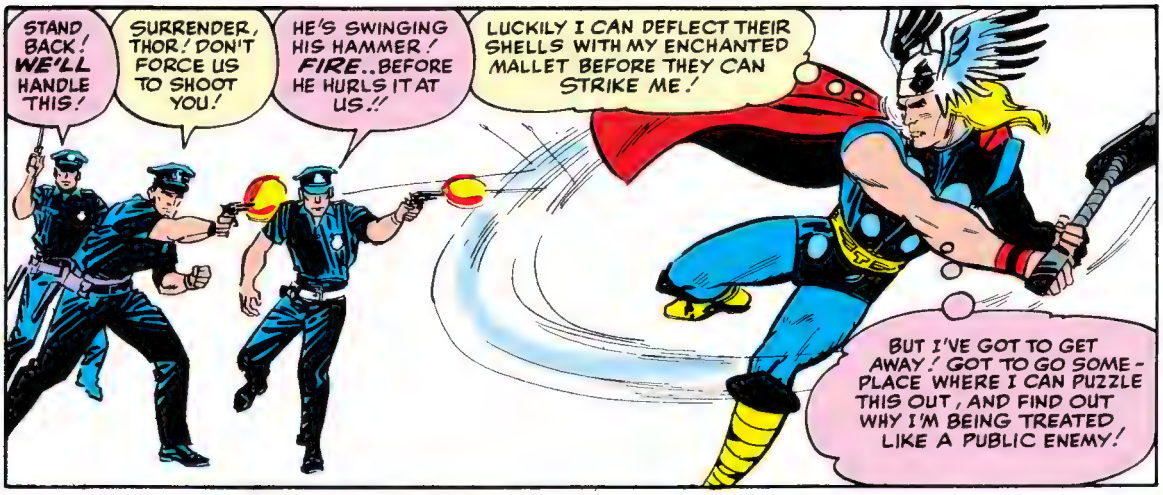
THE MIGHTY THOR! "The MASTER PLAN of MR. HYDE!"

LAST ISSUE, WE MET MR. HYDE, ONE OF THE MOST SINISTER MENACES OF ALL TIME! POSSESSING THE STRENGH OF A DOZEN NORMAL MEN, MR. HYDE HAS SWORN TO DESTROY HIS MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY... MIGHTY THOR!! AND NOW, WE FIND THE HEROIC THUNDER GOD ACCUSED AND CONDEMNED BY THOSE HE HAS SWORN TO PROTECT! LET US PICK UP THE THREAD OF THIS EPIC TALE NOW, AND FOLLOW IT TO ITS SPELLBINDING CONCLUSION!!
HAS THE CITY GONE MAD?!! WHEREVER I TURN, I SEE HATRED AND FEAR IN THE EYES OF MEN! AND IT IS ALL DIRECTED AGAINST... ME!!
IT'S THOR! HOW DOES HE DARE SHOW HIS FACE HERE AGAIN??!
SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE, BEFORE HE GETS AWAY!
GET BACK! STAY AWAY FROM HIM! THERE IS NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL DO NEXT.!!

Written by: STAN LEE
Illustrated by: DON HECK
Lettered by: S. ROSEN

ANOTHER MARVEL AGE PRODUCTION
BY THE MIGHTY MARVEL COMICS GROUP!

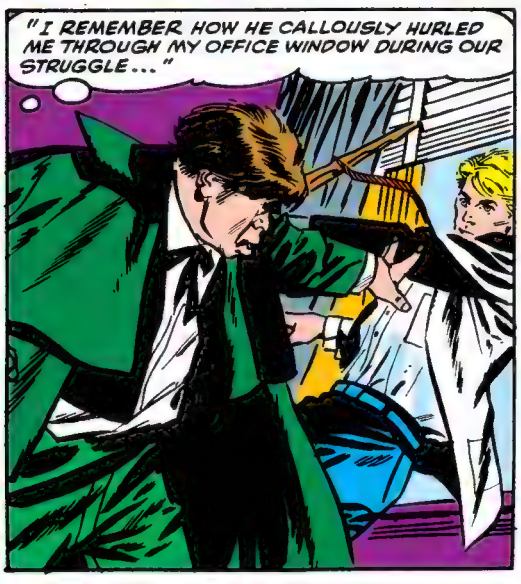
X-513


STAND BACK! WE'LL HANDLE THIS!
SURRENDER, THOR! DON'T FORCE US TO SHOOT YOU!
HE'S SWINGING HIS HAMMER! FIRE..BEFORE HE HURLS IT AT US!!
LUCKILY I CAN DEFLECT THEIR SHELLS WITH MY ENCHANTED MALLET BEFORE THEY CAN STRIKE ME!
BUT I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! GOT TO GO SOMEPLACE WHERE I CAN PUZZLE THIS OUT, AND FIND OUT WHY I'M BEING TREATED LIKE A PUBLIC ENEMY!

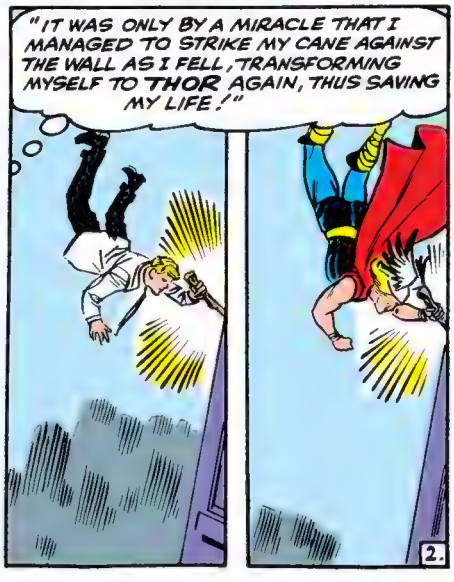
I'LL FLY TO ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY WHERE I'LL BE SAFE FROM THEIR BULLETS!
LOOK! HE'S ZOOMING OFF INTO THE SKY!
DOESN'T MATTER! WE'LL GET HIM WHEN HE LANDS! THERE'S AN "ALL POINTS" ALARM OUT FOR HIM!

A FEW SECONDS LATER...
WHAT WOULD HAVE MADE THOR TURN CRIMINAL?? IMAGINE HIM ROBBING A BANK!
BEATS ME! BUT WHO CAN FIGURE OUT A CHARACTER LIKE HIM?!
THEY CALL ME A CRIMINAL... SAY I'VE ROBBED A BANK! THIS IS INSANE!

I KNOW I'M NOT A CRIMINAL ... I HAVEN'T ROBBED ANY BANKS! SO THE ONLY ANSWER IS THAT SOMEONE HAS BEEN IMPERSONATING ME! BUT WHO?... WAIT!! WHAT A FOOL I AM!!
------ I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT MR. HYDE! IT WAS HE WHO SMASHED HIS WAY INTO MY OFFICE THE OTHER DAY! HE HAS THE STRENGTH OF A DOZEN MEN!...AND THE INSTINCTS OF A BEAST!

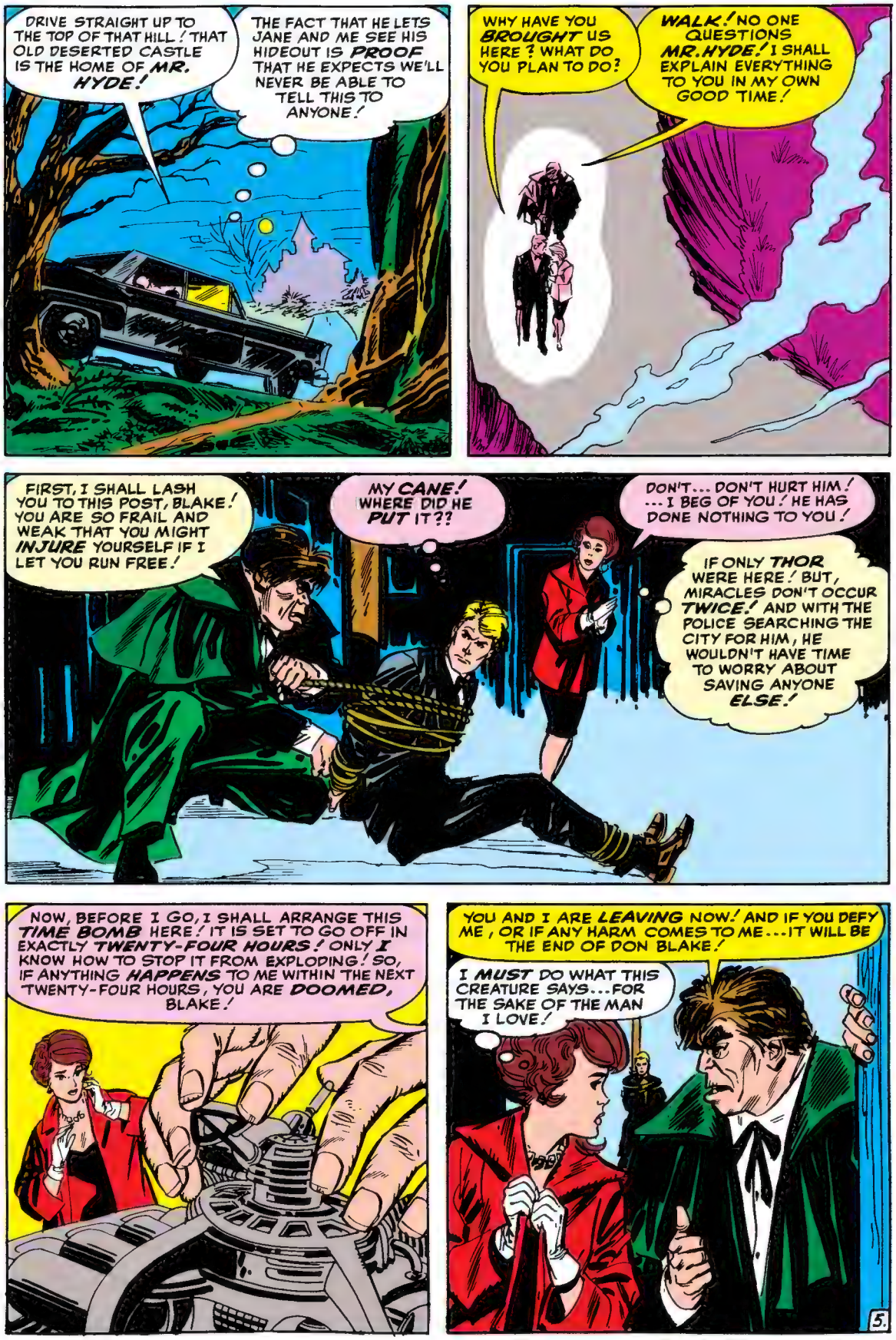

"I REMEMBER HOW HE CALLOUSLY HURLED ME THROUGH MY OFFICE WINDOW DURING OUR STRUGGLE..."

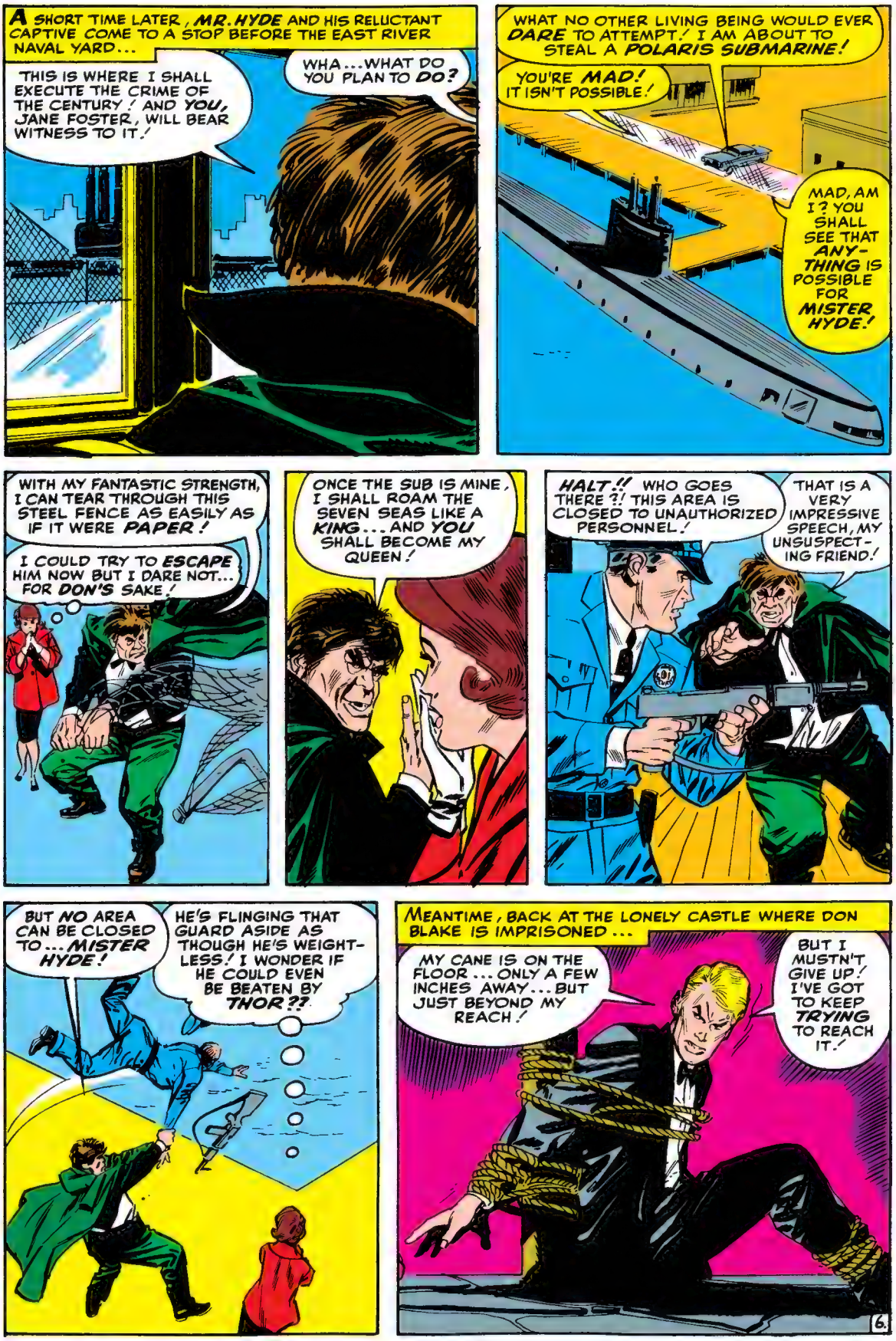
"AND HIS EVIL VOICE WAS THE LAST THING I HEARD AS I PLUNGED DOWNWARD..!


"IT WAS ONLY BY A MIRACLE THAT I MANAGED TO STRIKE MY CANE AGAINST THE WALL AS I FELL, TRANSFORMING MYSELF TO THOR AGAIN, THUS SAVING MY LIFE!"
2.

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO.../...ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE I'LL BE SAFE./
I'VE GOT TO RETURN TO MY OFFICE AND BECOME DR. BLAKE AGAIN./ MUSTN'T TAKE A CHANCE OF ANYONE GETTING HURT IF THOR MUST BATTLE ANY HUMANS./
STRANGE, HOW HYDE ENTERED MY LIFE JUST WHEN I THOUGHT MY BIGGEST PROBLEM HAD BEEN SOLVED./ I FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO GET ODIN'S PERMISSION TO MARRY JANE.
ALTHOUGH AN IMMORTAL MAY NOT MARRY A HUMAN, MY NOBLE FATHER MIGHT MAKE HER AN IMMORTAL, TOO, IF SHE PROVED HERSELF WORTHY./
THOSE ARE MY FINAL WORDS, THOR!
THANK YOU, FATHER! THEN I STILL MAY HOPE!
MOMENTS LATER, AT THE OFFICE OF DOCTOR DON BLAKE...THE VALIANT THUNDER GOD STAMPS HIS MIGHTY HAMMER ONCE AND...
NOW LET THOR, GOD OF THUNDER, VANISH!...
...TO BE REPLACED BY THE MORTAL DR. BLAKE..
THUMP!
OH, THERE YOU ARE, DON! FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT YOU HAD FORGOTTEN YOUR PROMISE TO TAKE ME TO DINNER TONIGHT, ON MY BIRTHDAY!
I...I HAD FORGOTTEN... BECAUSE OF MY PROBLEM AS THOR./ BUT I CAN'T DISAPPOINT JANE ...
OF COURSE, JANE DEAR! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO IT ALL WEEK./
I'LL PICK YOU UP AT EIGHT AND WE'LL HAVE DINNER AT THE RITZ TERRACE./
I HOPE IT WON'T BECOME NECESSARY FOR ME TO BECOME THOR AGAIN BEFORE THAT TIME./
THE RITZ TERRACE! OH, DON... IT'S THE MOST GLAMOROUS PLACE IN TOWN! I'M SO THRILLED!
But OTHER EARS HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT BRIEF CONVERSATION! THE EARS OF THE MYSTERIOUS MR. HYDE!
THE RITZ TERRACE, EH? WELL, MISS FOSTER... YOU WILL BE EVEN MORE THRILLED THAN YOU EXPECT!
3.

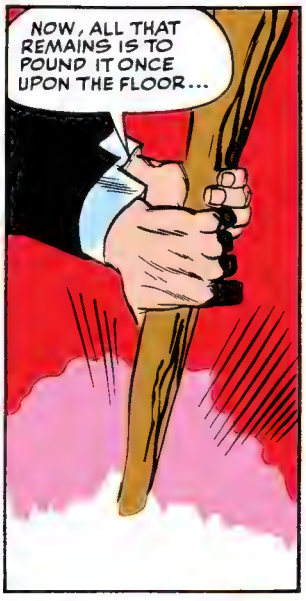
THAT NIGHT, A FEW MINUTES PAST EIGHT, AT THE RITZ TERRACE, A HANDSOME COUPLE ENJOY THE DINNER MUSIC AS THEY PREPARE TO ORDER...
IT'S SO WONDERFUL BEING HERE WITH YOU LIKE THIS, DON!.. AWAY FROM THE OFFICE, WHERE WE CAN BE DON AND JANE, RATHER THAN DR. BLAKE AND NURSE FOSTER!
JANE, MY DARLING..IF ONLY IT COULD BE THIS WAY FOREVER! BUT, I DARE NOT SPEAK OF MY LOVE UNTIL ODIN CONSENTS TO MAKE YOU AN IMMORTAL!
YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT, MY DEAR! AND WHETHER YOU ARE MISS FOSTER, OR JANE TO ME, IT'S ALWAYS HEAVEN BEING WITH YOU!
I JUST WISH I COULD FORGET ABOUT THAT HORRID MR. HYDE! THE WAY HE BROKE INTO THE OFFICE, AND ATTACKED YOU, FOR NO REASON! WHAT IF THE BRUTE SHOULD EVER RETURN?
TRY TO PUT IT OUT OF YOUR MIND, JANE! I'M SURE WE'VE HEARD THE LAST OF HIM!
AFTER ALL, WHEN THOR SAVED MY LIFE... BY A LUCKY MIRACLE... HE SCARED HYDE AWAY! NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL HYDE MAY BE, I'M SURE HE'D NEVER REMAIN IN THE SAME CITY AS THE MIGHTY THOR!
I'LL TAKE YOUR ORDER NOW, SIR!
YOU!
DON! WHAT IS IT??
DO AS I SAY AND I MAY LET YOU BOTH LIVE A WHILE LONGER! GET UP AND WALK OUT OF THE RESTAURANT! AND REMEMBER, I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
DON!! WHAT...?!
WE CAN'T REASON WITH HIM, JANE! WE'VE GOT TO OBEY!
WHY DO YOU HOUND US THIS WAY, HYDE?? WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE??
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH! NOW GET INTO YOUR CAR AND DRIVE WHERE I TELL YOU TO!
I CAN'T TURN INTO THOR NOW...NOT WITH JANE WATCHING! ALSO, I'M ANXIOUS TO LEARN WHAT HIS PLANS ARE FIRST!
YOU REPRESENT EVERYTHING I HATE, BLAKE! YOU ARE HONEST...HARD-WORKING... SUCCESSFUL! WHILE I... I AM THE EVIL NATURE OF MAN, PERSONIFIED!
OH, DON, MY DARLING...IF ONLY YOU WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO COPE WITH THIS BRUTE... BUT YOU'RE NOT!
4.

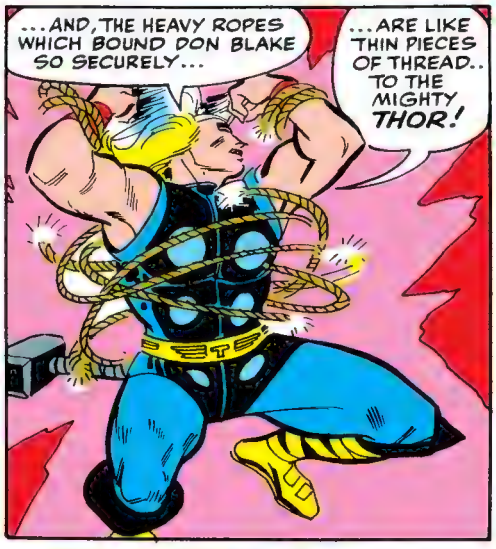

DRIVE STRAIGHT UP TO THE TOP OF THAT HILL! THAT OLD DESERTED CASTLE IS THE HOME OF MR. HYDE!
THE FACT THAT HE LETS JANE AND ME SEE HIS HIDEOUT IS PROOF THAT HE EXPECTS WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TELL THIS TO ANYONE!
WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US HERE? WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
WALK! NO ONE QUESTIONS MR. HYDE! I SHALL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU IN MY OWN GOOD TIME!
FIRST, I SHALL LASH YOU TO THIS POST, BLAKE! YOU ARE SO FRAIL AND WEAK THAT YOU MIGHT INJURE YOURSELF IF I LET YOU RUN FREE!
MY CANE! WHERE DID HE PUT IT??
DON'T... DON'T HURT HIM! ...I BEG OF YOU! HE HAS DONE NOTHING TO YOU!
IF ONLY THOR WERE HERE! BUT, MIRACLES DON'T OCCUR TWICE! AND WITH THE POLICE SEARCHING THE CITY FOR HIM, HE WOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT SAVING ANYONE ELSE!
NOW, BEFORE I GO, I SHALL ARRANGE THIS TIME BOMB HERE! IT IS SET TO GO OFF IN EXACTLY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! ONLY I KNOW HOW TO STOP IT FROM EXPLODING! SO, IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME WITHIN THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, YOU ARE DOOMED, BLAKE!
YOU AND I ARE LEAVING NOW! AND IF YOU DEFY ME, OR IF ANY HARM COMES TO ME...IT WILL BE THE END OF DON BLAKE!
I MUST DO WHAT THIS CREATURE SAYS...FOR THE SAKE OF THE MAN I LOVE!
5.


A SHORT TIME LATER, MR. HYDE AND HIS RELUCTANT CAPTIVE COME TO A STOP BEFORE THE EAST RIVER NAVAL YARD...
THIS IS WHERE I SHALL EXECUTE THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY! AND YOU, JANE FOSTER, WILL BEAR WITNESS TO IT!
WHA...WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
WHAT NO OTHER LIVING BEING WOULD EVER DARE TO ATTEMPT! I AM ABOUT TO STEAL A POLARIS SUBMARINE!
YOU'RE MAD! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
MAD, AM I? YOU SHALL SEE THAT ANY-THING IS POSSIBLE FOR MISTER HYDE!
WITH MY FANTASTIC STRENGTH, I CAN TEAR THROUGH THIS STEEL FENCE AS EASILY AS IF IT WERE PAPER!
I COULD TRY TO ESCAPE HIM NOW BUT I DARE NOT... FOR DON'S SAKE!
ONCE THE SUB IS MINE, I SHALL ROAM THE SEVEN SEAS LIKE A KING... AND YOU SHALL BECOME MY QUEEN!
HALT!! WHO GOES THERE?! THIS AREA IS CLOSED TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL!
THAT IS A VERY IMPRESSIVE SPEECH, MY UNSUSPECTING FRIEND!
BUT NO AREA CAN BE CLOSED TO... MISTER HYDE!
HE'S FLINGING THAT GUARD ASIDE AS THOUGH HE'S WEIGHTLESS! I WONDER IF HE COULD EVEN BE BEATEN BY THOR??
MEANTIME, BACK AT THE LONELY CASTLE WHERE DON BLAKE IS IMPRISONED...
MY CANE IS ON THE FLOOR... ONLY A FEW INCHES AWAY... BUT JUST BEYOND MY REACH!
BUT I MUSTN'T GIVE UP! I'VE GOT TO KEEP TRYING TO REACH IT!
6.

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER ... IF ONLY I COULD STRETCH ANOTHER INCH ...
MY ARM FEELS AS THOUGH IT'S BREAKING.. BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP STRETCHING... STRETCHING...

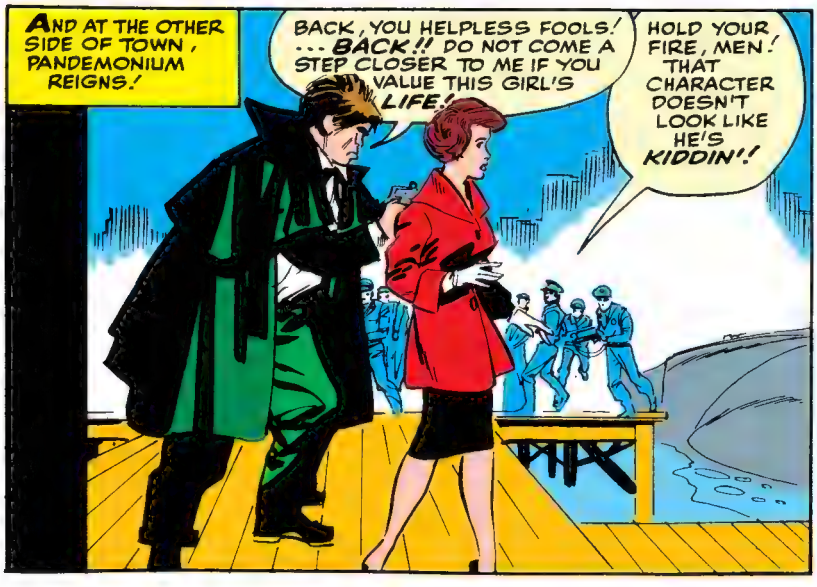
I..I DID IT! IT'S MINE!


NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO POUND IT ONCE UPON THE FLOOR...

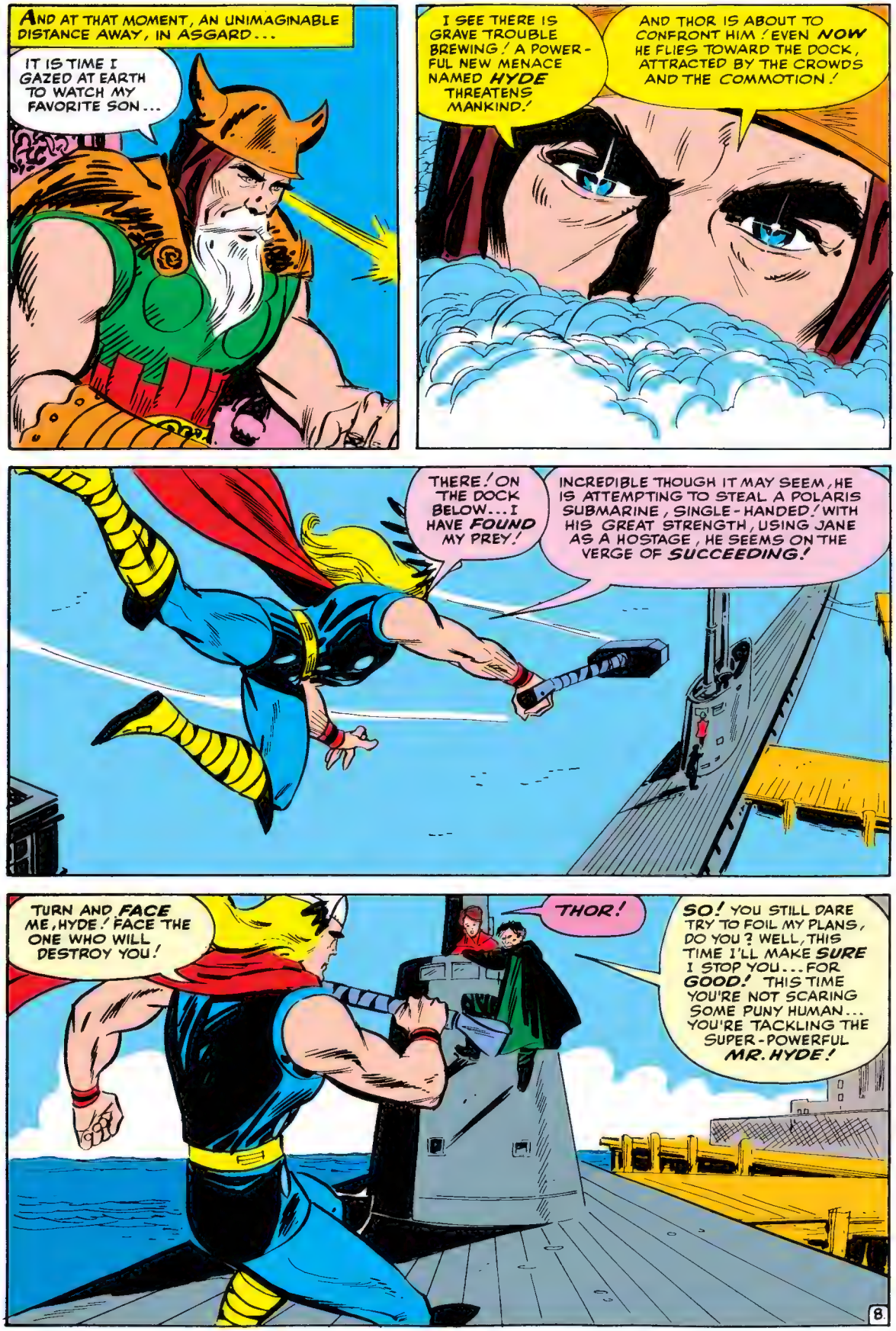

...AND, THE HEAVY ROPES WHICH BOUND DON BLAKE SO SECURELY...
...ARE LIKE THIN PIECES OF THREAD.. TO THE MIGHTY THOR!

ALTHOUGH I DO NOT KNOW WHERE HYDE HAS GONE...

...I'LL SCOUR THE CITY UNTIL I FIND HIM ...
...FOR FIND HIM I MUST!


AND AT THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, PANDEMONIUM REIGNS!
BACK, YOU HELPLESS FOOLS! ... BACK!! DO NOT COME A STEP CLOSER TO ME IF YOU VALUE THIS GIRL'S LIFE!
HOLD YOUR FIRE, MEN! THAT CHARACTER DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S KIDDIN'!

HELLO! HELLO! PUT ME THROUGH TO WASHINGTON! HYDE IS MORE THAN WE CAN HANDLE! THIS CALLS FOR THE MILITARY!
SECURITY

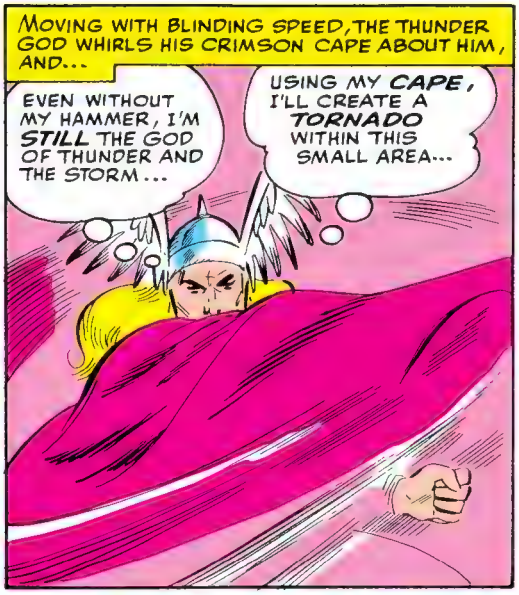

AND AT THAT MOMENT, AN UNIMAGINABLE DISTANCE AWAY, IN ASGARD...
IT IS TIME I GAZED AT EARTH TO WATCH MY FAVORITE SON...
I SEE THERE IS GRAVE TROUBLE BREWING! A POWERFUL NEW MENACE NAMED HYDE THREATENS MANKIND!
AND THOR IS ABOUT TO CONFRONT HIM! EVEN NOW HE FLIES TOWARD THE DOCK, ATTRACTED BY THE CROWDS AND THE COMMOTION!
THERE! ON THE DOCK BELOW... I HAVE FOUND MY PREY!
INCREDIBLE THOUGH IT MAY SEEM, HE IS ATTEMPTING TO STEAL A POLARIS SUBMARINE, SINGLE-HANDED! WITH HIS GREAT STRENGTH, USING JANE AS A HOSTAGE, HE SEEMS ON THE VERGE OF SUCCEEDING!
TURN AND FACE ME, HYDE! FACE THE ONE WHO WILL DESTROY YOU!
THOR!
SO! YOU STILL DARE TRY TO FOIL MY PLANS, DO YOU? WELL, THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE I STOP YOU... FOR GOOD! THIS TIME YOU'RE NOT SCARING SOME PUNY HUMAN... YOU'RE TACKLING THE SUPER-POWERFUL MR. HYDE!

IF YOU WANT ME, THUNDER GOD... COME AND GET ME!
RRIP.
TRY AND STOP ME, MISTER!
YOU MEAN... LIKE THIS??
OOOFF!!
WHUMPH!
THAT WOULD HAVE KILLED ANYONE ELSE... BUT IT MERELY SLOWED THOR DOWN! WELL, NO MATTER... IT GAVE ME THE TIME I NEED!
YOU'RE TOO LATE, THOR!
NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!
PWANG!
9.

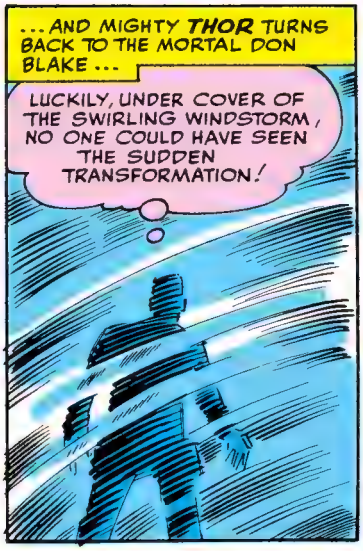
HE'S LOCKED HIMSELF WITHIN THE SUB.! BUT HE STILL IS HOLDING JANE AS A HOSTAGE.!
AND NO METAL ON EARTH IS STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP ME FROM REACHING HER SIDE WHEN SHE NEEDS ME.!
RRI-IP!
NO MATTER WHERE YOU RUN, THOR WILL FIND YOU, HYDE.!
QUIET.! YOU'LL SEE THAT I'M MORE THAN A MATCH FOR HIM.!
I KNOW YOU'RE DOWN HERE, HYDE.! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE FROM ME.!
NO ANSWER.! THAT MEANS HE STILL HOPES TO BATTLE ME... AND TO DEFEAT ME.!
BUT NO MATTER WHAT HIS PLAN IS, I MUST SEE THAT NO HARM COMES TO JANE.!
THAT'S IT, THOR... COME CLOSER... STILL CLOSER, YOU BUNGLING FOOL.! CLOSER TO YOUR DOOM.!

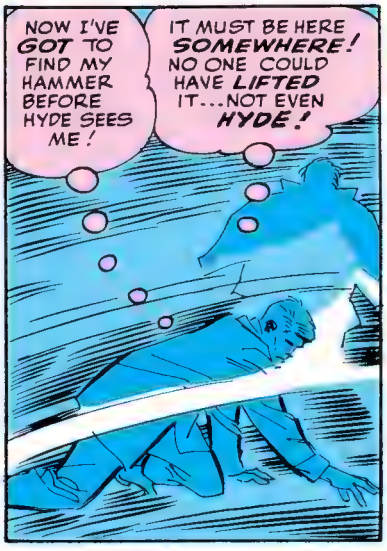
HAH! I'VE GOT YOU! AND NOW, WITH MY ALMOST UNLIMITED STRENGTH, I'LL FINISH YOU OFF FOREVER!
YOU DARE MENTION YOUR STRENGTH WHEN YOU SPEAK TO MIGHTY THOR?!!
THANK HEAVENS! THOR IS BEATING HIM!
WAIT! WHAT AM I THINKING?! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HYDE, THAT BOMB WILL EXPLODE IN HIS CASTLE...THE CASTLE WHERE DON IS IMPRISONED!
THOR'S GREATEST WEAPON IS HIS HAMMER! IF I COVER IT WITH THIS CANVAS HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FIND IT QUICKLY, AND THAT WILL GIVE HYDE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
I..I KNOW I SHOULDN'T HELP HYDE...BUT DON'S LIFE IS AT STAKE... I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!
ALL RIGHT, THOR! I HATE TO RESORT TO ANYTHING SO COMMONPLACE AS A GUN, BUT I'M FINISHING YOU OFF HERE AND NOW!
MY HAMMER! IT'S BEEN OUT OF MY HAND FOR ALMOST SIXTY SECONDS! IF I DON'T GET IT IMMEDIATELY, I'LL REVERT BACK TO DON BLAKE, AND BE AN EASY PREY FOR HYDE'S BULLETS!
BUT WHERE IS IT? I DROPPED IT...BUT WHERE??

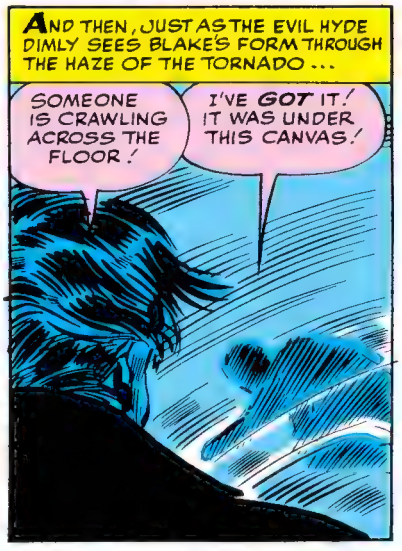
ONLY A FEW SECONDS LEFT! CAN'T WASTE THEM LOOKING FOR THE HAMMER! GOT TO PROTECT MYSELF!!


MOVING WITH BLINDING SPEED, THE THUNDER GOD WHIRLS HIS CRIMSON CAPE ABOUT HIM, AND...
EVEN WITHOUT MY HAMMER, I'M STILL THE GOD OF THUNDER AND THE STORM...
USING MY CAPE, I'LL CREATE A TORNADO WITHIN THIS SMALL AREA...

THEN, AS THE SUDDEN FURY OF THE STORM BLOWS THE DEADLY WEAPON FROM THE HAND OF MR. HYDE, THE FATEFUL SIXTY SECONDS ARE UP...


...AND MIGHTY THOR TURNS BACK TO THE MORTAL DON BLAKE...
LUCKILY, UNDER COVER OF THE SWIRLING WINDSTORM, NO ONE COULD HAVE SEEN THE SUDDEN TRANSFORMATION!

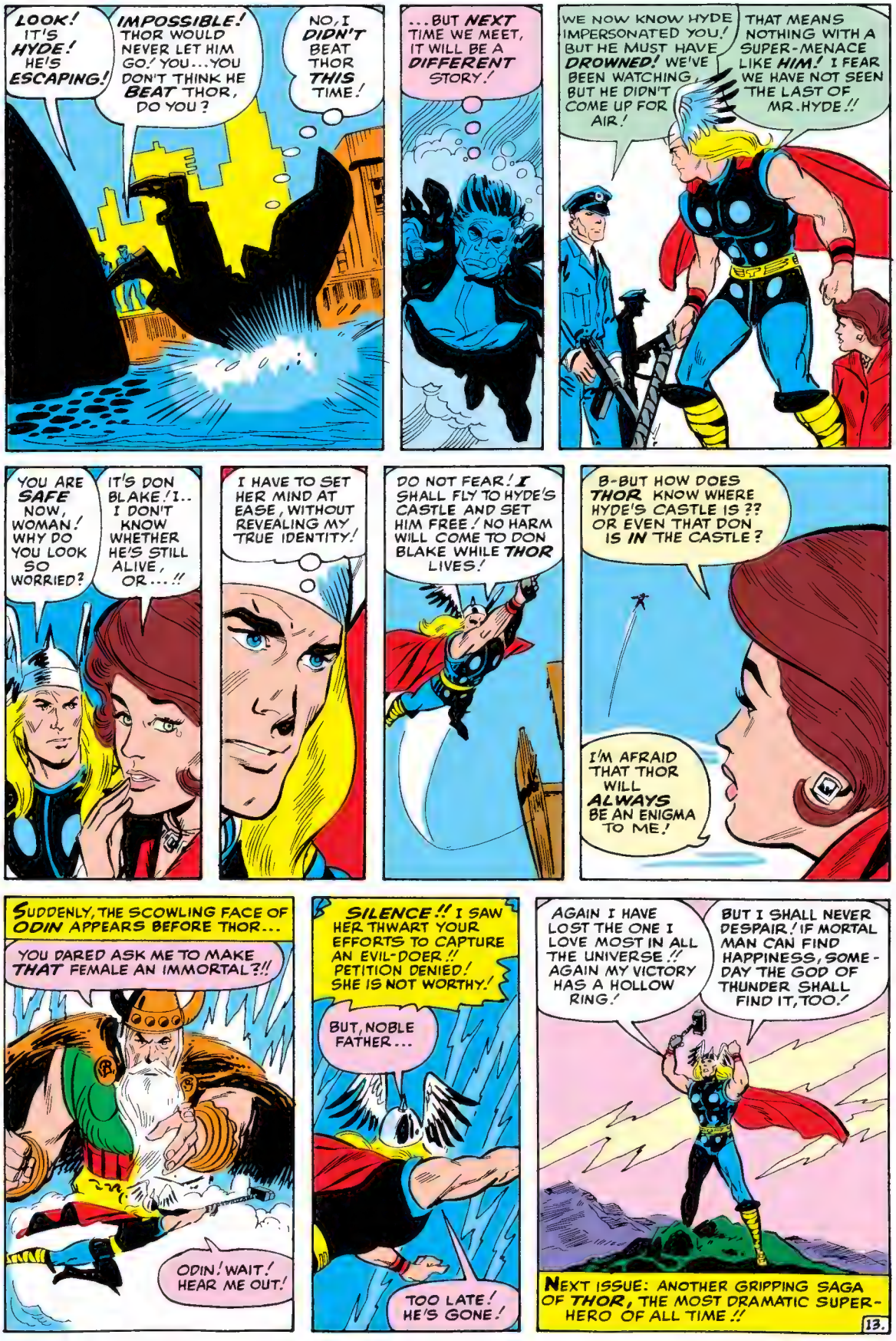

NOW I'VE GOT TO FIND MY HAMMER BEFORE HYDE SEES ME!
IT MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE! NO ONE COULD HAVE LIFTED IT...NOT EVEN HYDE!


AND THEN, JUST AS THE EVIL HYDE DIMLY SEES BLAKE'S FORM THROUGH THE HAZE OF THE TORNADO...
SOMEONE IS CRAWLING ACROSS THE FLOOR!
I'VE GOT IT! IT WAS UNDER THIS CANVAS!

EXACTLY ONE SECOND LATER...
LET THE WIND CEASE! THE GOD OF THUNDER COMMANDS!
THOR!

YOU HAVE YOUR HAMMER AGAIN! OH, NO...YOU MUST LET HYDE ESCAPE! IF YOU DON'T, DON BLAKE WILL DIE!!
JANE... DON'T! STAND ASIDE!

NO! LET HIM GO! YOU MUST!
POOR JANE! I CANNOT TELL HER THAT I AM BLAKE!.. AND I AM SAFE! SHE IS ONLY DOING THIS OUT OF LOVE FOR ME!
THANKS TO THE WITLESS FEMALE, I SHALL MAKE GOOD-MY ESCAPE!


LOOK! IT'S HYDE! HE'S ESCAPING!
IMPOSSIBLE! THOR WOULD NEVER LET HIM GO! YOU...YOU DON'T THINK HE BEAT THOR, DO YOU?
NO, I DIDN'T BEAT THOR THIS TIME!
...BUT NEXT TIME WE MEET, IT WILL BE A DIFFERENT STORY!
WE NOW KNOW HYDE IMPERSONATED YOU! BUT HE MUST HAVE DROWNED! WE'VE BEEN WATCHING, BUT HE DIDN'T COME UP FOR AIR!
THAT MEANS NOTHING WITH A SUPER-MENACE LIKE HIM! I FEAR WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF MR. HYDE!!
YOU ARE SAFE NOW, WOMAN! WHY DO YOU LOOK SO WORRIED?
IT'S DON BLAKE! I.. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE'S STILL ALIVE, OR...!!
I HAVE TO SET HER MIND AT EASE, WITHOUT REVEALING MY TRUE IDENTITY!
DO NOT FEAR! I SHALL FLY TO HYDE'S CASTLE AND SET HIM FREE! NO HARM WILL COME TO DON BLAKE WHILE THOR LIVES!
B-BUT HOW DOES THOR KNOW WHERE HYDE'S CASTLE IS?? OR EVEN THAT DON IS IN THE CASTLE?
I'M AFRAID THAT THOR WILL ALWAYS BE AN ENIGMA TO ME!
SUDDENLY, THE SCOWLING FACE OF ODIN APPEARS BEFORE THOR...
YOU DARED ASK ME TO MAKE THAT FEMALE AN IMMORTAL?!!
ODIN! WAIT! HEAR ME OUT!
SILENCE!! I SAW HER THWART YOUR EFFORTS TO CAPTURE AN EVIL-DOER!! PETITION DENIED! SHE IS NOT WORTHY!
BUT, NOBLE FATHER...
TOO LATE! HE'S GONE!
AGAIN I HAVE LOST THE ONE I LOVE MOST IN ALL THE UNIVERSE!! AGAIN MY VICTORY HAS A HOLLOW RING!
BUT I SHALL NEVER DESPAIR! IF MORTAL MAN CAN FIND HAPPINESS, SOMEDAY THE GOD OF THUNDER SHALL FIND IT, TOO!
NEXT ISSUE: ANOTHER GRIPPING SAGA OF THOR, THE MOST DRAMATIC SUPER-HERO OF ALL TIME!!

Tales of ASGARD
HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS!
The BOYHOOD of THOR!
"THE STORM GIANTS"
WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE
DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY
INKED BY: P. REINMAN
LETTERED BY: ART SIMEK
LOOK, LOKI! THERE ARE THE TWO SONS OF THE STORM GIANT! THEY HAVE STOLEN THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE GODDESS IDUNA! IT IS OUR DUTY TO RETURN THEM TO THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNER!
DO NOT SPEAK TO ME OF DUTY, THOR! I DO WHAT I WILL!
AS A YOUTH, FROM THE DAY HE WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO WIELD A SWORD, THOR HAD DREAMED OF ONE DAY INHERITING THE ENCHANTED BATTLE HAMMER OF ODIN! BUT ODIN'S HAMMER COULD ONLY BE WON BY ACCOMPLISHING DEEDS OF VALOR--DEEDS SUCH AS THE ONE YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE....!
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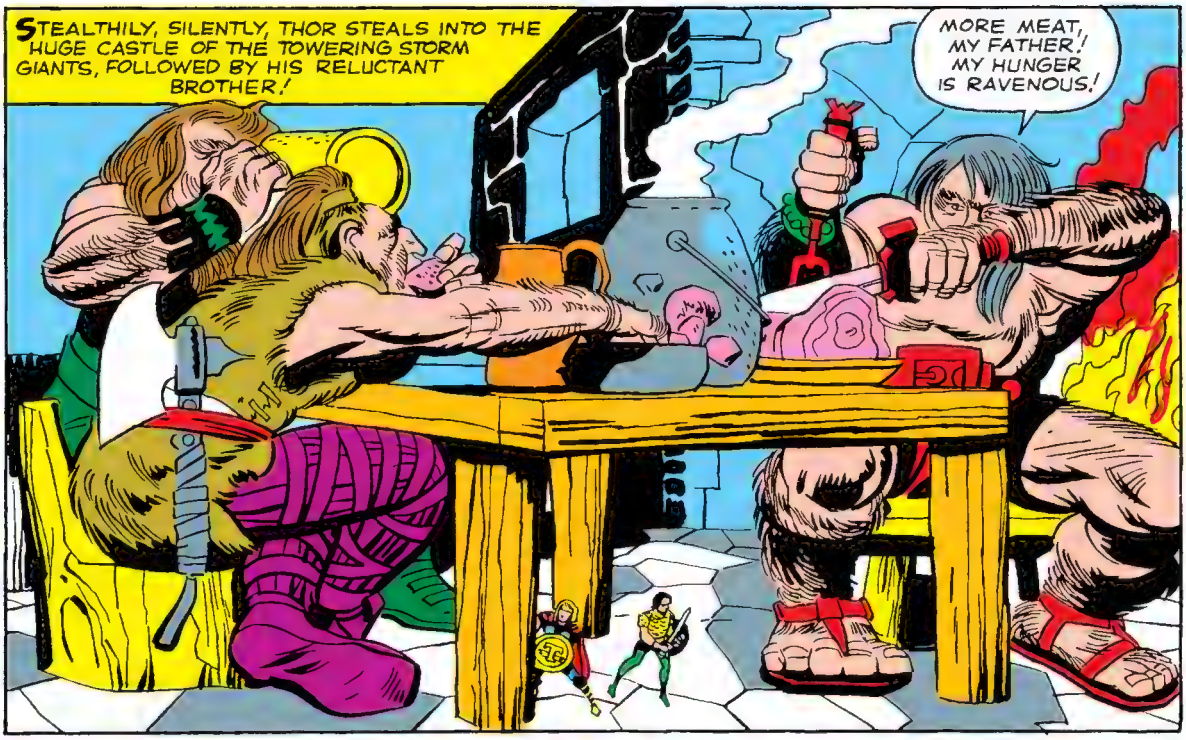
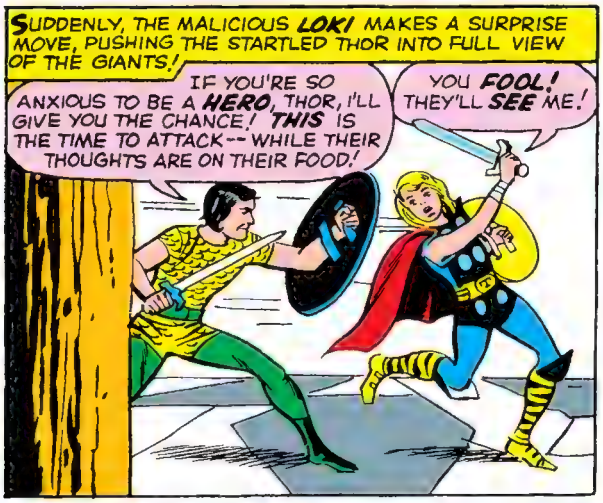
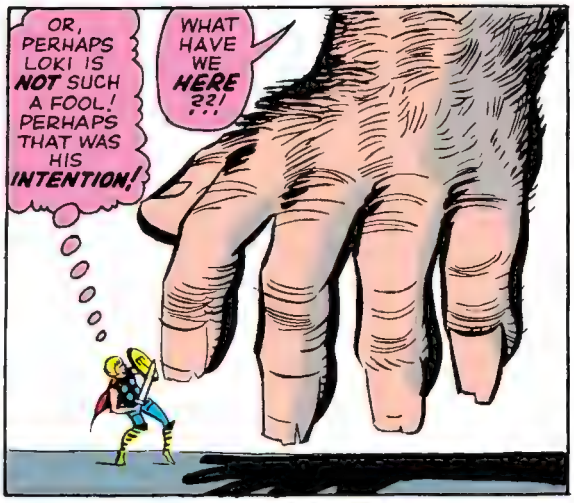
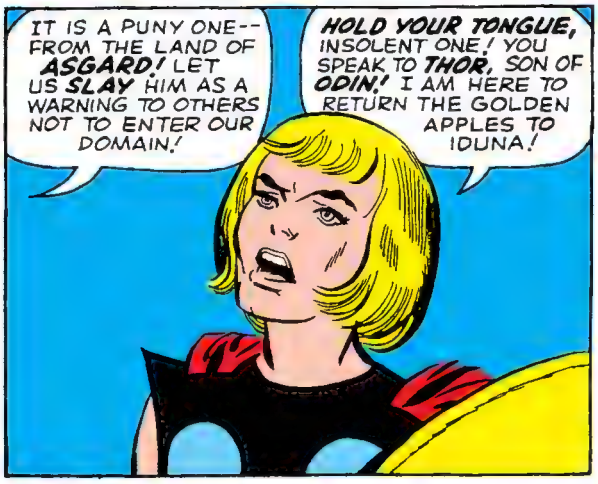
1

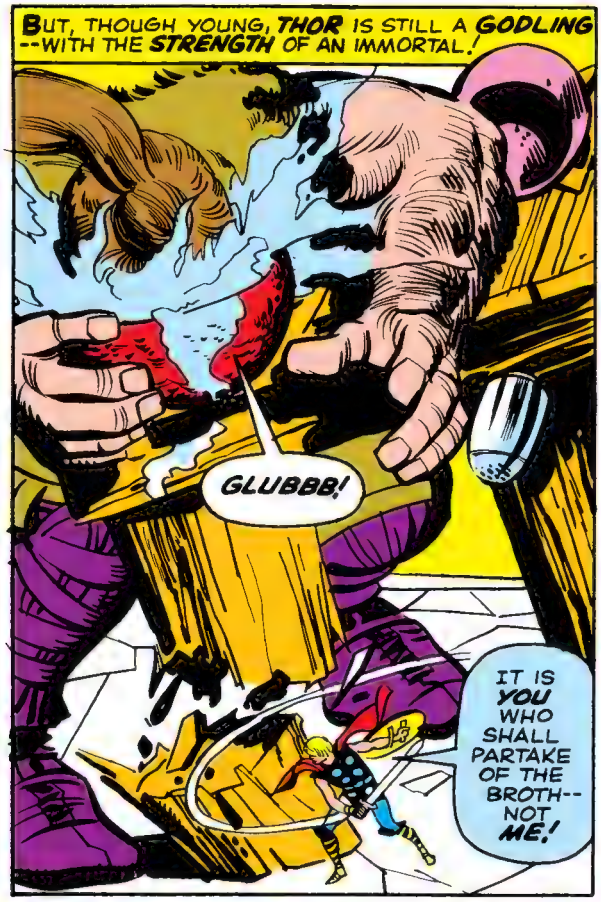

STEALTHILY, SILENTLY, THOR STEALS INTO THE HUGE CASTLE OF THE TOWERING STORM GIANTS, FOLLOWED BY HIS RELUCTANT BROTHER!
MORE MEAT, MY FATHER! MY HUNGER IS RAVENOUS!

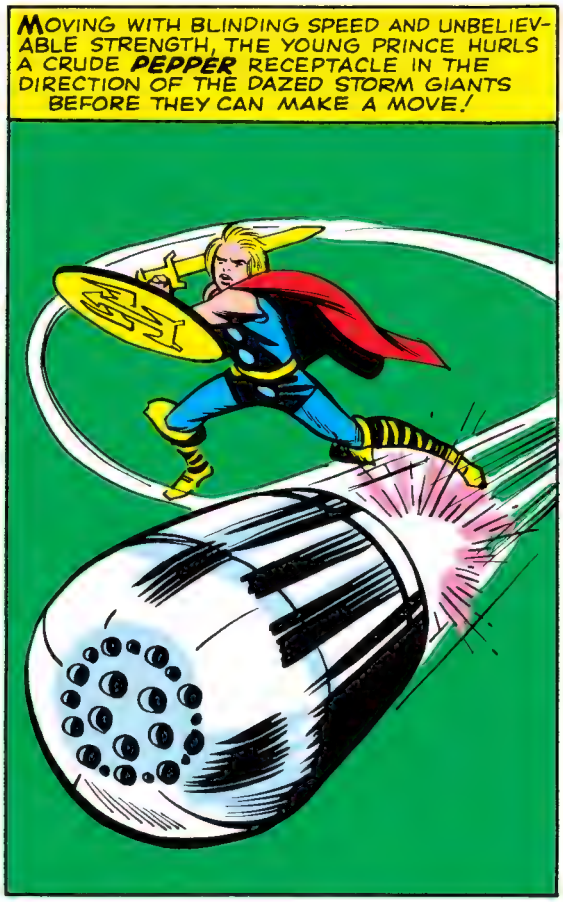

SUDDENLY, THE MALICIOUS LOKI! MAKES A SURPRISE MOVE, PUSHING THE STARTLED THOR INTO FULL VIEW OF THE GIANTS!
IF YOU'RE SO ANXIOUS TO BE A HERO, THOR, I'LL GIVE YOU THE CHANCE! THIS IS THE TIME TO ATTACK-- WHILE THEIR THOUGHTS ARE ON THEIR FOOD!
YOU FOOL! THEY'LL SEE ME!

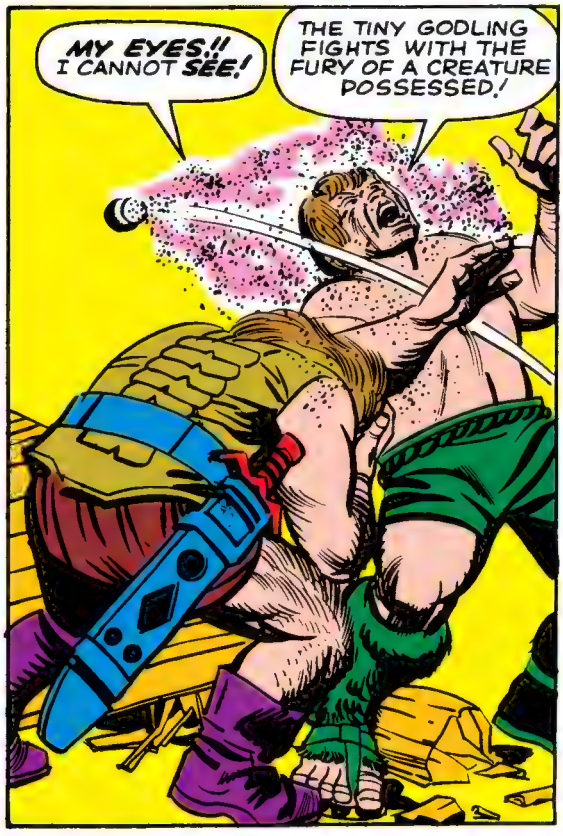

OR, PERHAPS LOKI IS NOT SUCH A FOOL! PERHAPS THAT WAS HIS INTENTION!
WHAT HAVE WE HERE ??!

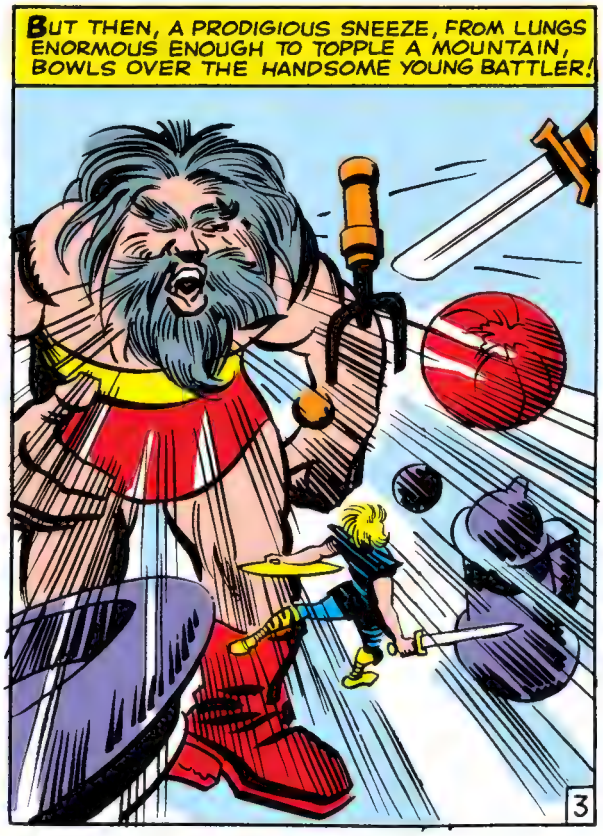

IT IS A PUNY ONE-- FROM THE LAND OF ASGARD! LET US SLAY HIM AS A WARNING TO OTHERS NOT TO ENTER OUR DOMAIN!
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, INSOLENT ONE! YOU SPEAK TO THOR, SON OF ODIN! I AM HERE TO RETURN THE GOLDEN APPLES TO IDUNA!

SO! THAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?!
HE WAS A FOOL TO TELL US!
DROWN THE YOUNG FOOL IN A TORRENT OF BROTH!

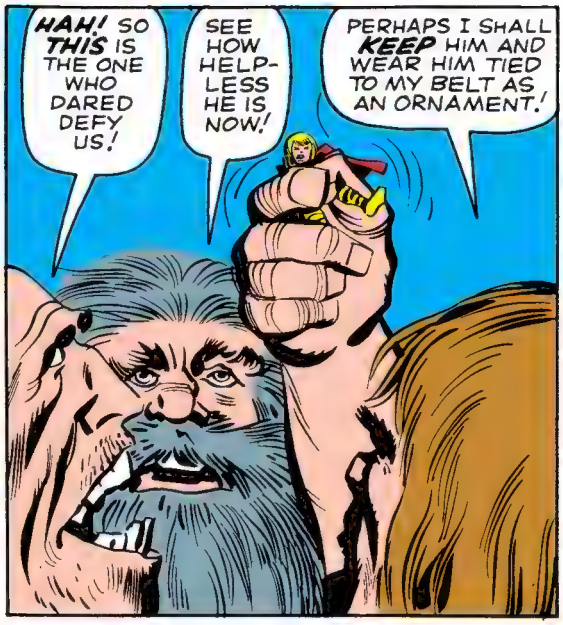

BUT, THOUGH YOUNG, THOR IS STILL A GODLING --WITH THE STRENGTH OF AN IMMORTAL!
GLUBBB!
IT IS YOU WHO SHALL PARTAKE OF THE BROTH-- NOT ME!

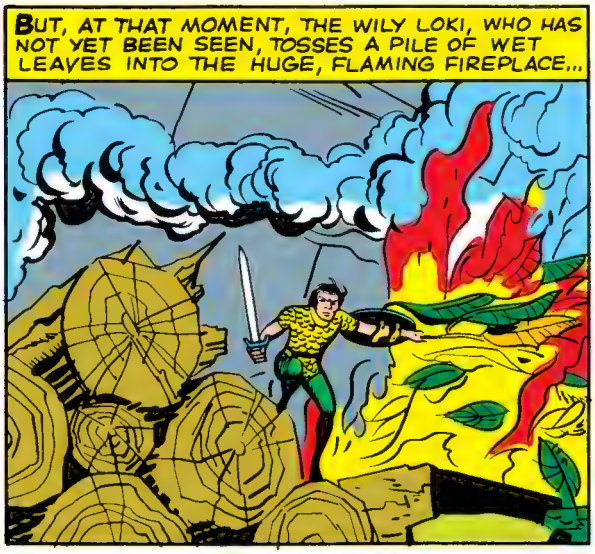

MOVING WITH BLINDING SPEED AND UNBELIEVABLE STRENGTH, THE YOUNG PRINCE HURLS A CRUDE PEPPER RECEPTACLE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE DAZED STORM GIANTS BEFORE THEY CAN MAKE A MOVE!

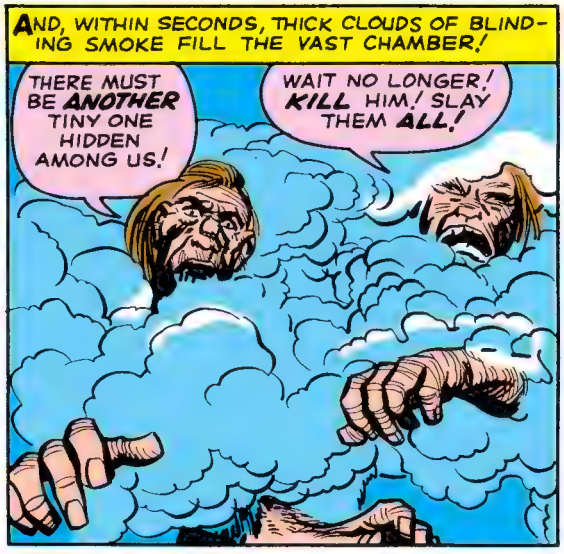

MY EYES!! I CANNOT SEE!
THE TINY GODLING FIGHTS WITH THE FURY OF A CREATURE POSSESSED!

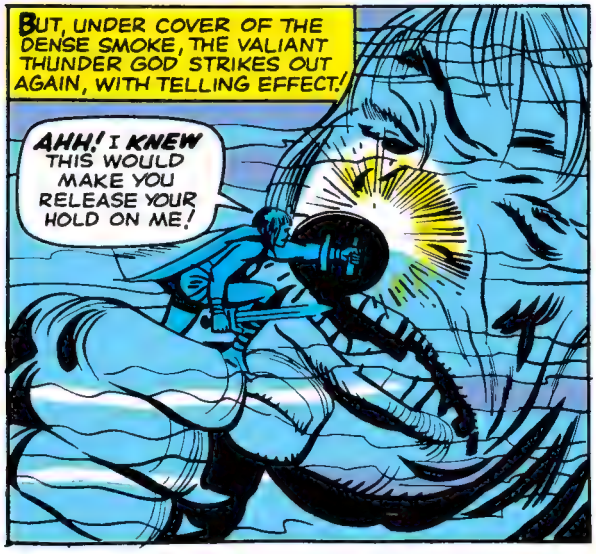

BUT THEN, A PRODIGIOUS SNEEZE, FROM LUNGS ENORMOUS ENOUGH TO TOPPLE A MOUNTAIN, BOWLS OVER THE HANDSOME YOUNG BATTLER!
3

AND, BEFORE THOR CAN REGAIN HIS BALANCE, HIS SWORD IS RENDERED USELESS BY A TITANIC FIST!
I'M TRAPPED!

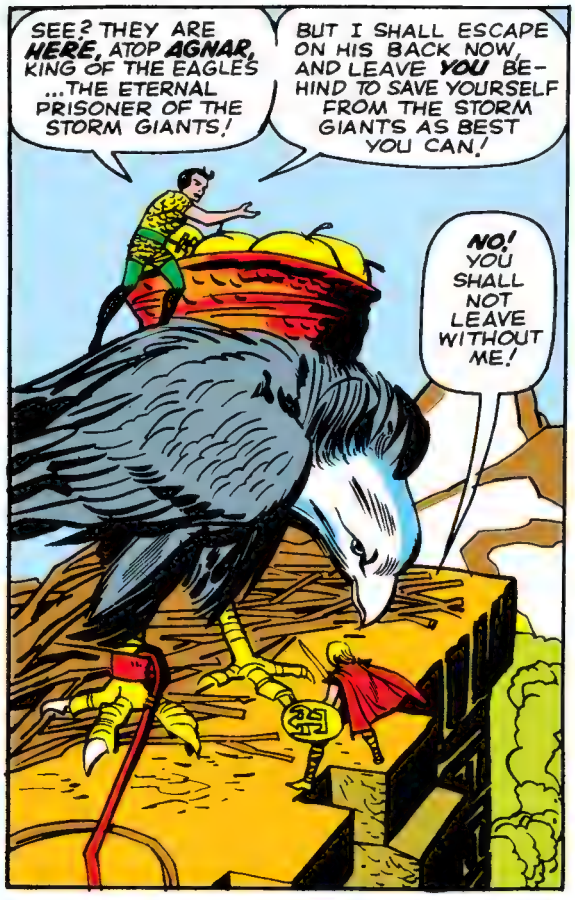

HAH! SO THIS IS THE ONE WHO DARED DEFY US!
SEE HOW HELPLESS HE IS NOW!
PERHAPS I SHALL KEEP HIM AND WEAR HIM TIED TO MY BELT AS AN ORNAMENT!

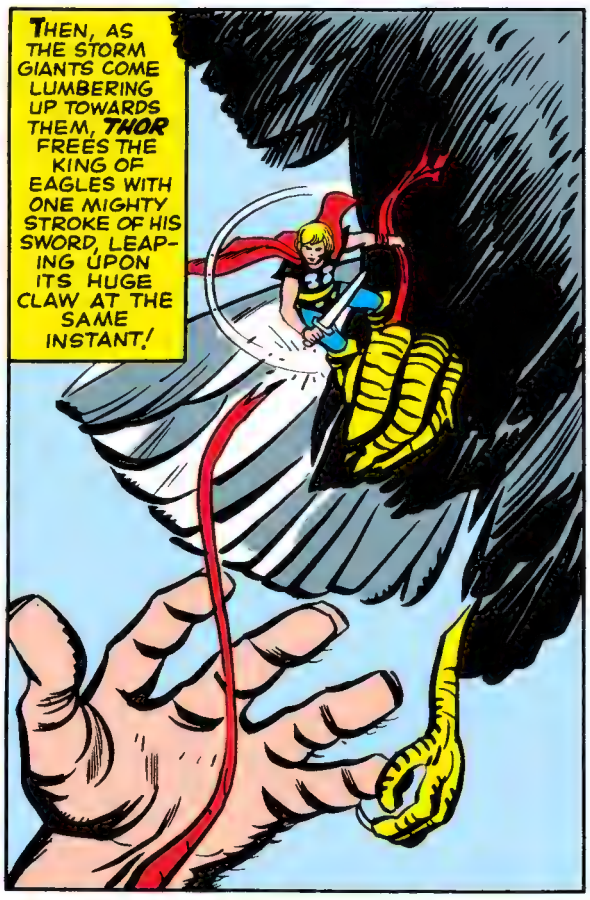

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, THE WILY LOKI, WHO HAS NOT YET BEEN SEEN, TOSSES A PILE OF WET LEAVES INTO THE HUGE, FLAMING FIREPLACE...

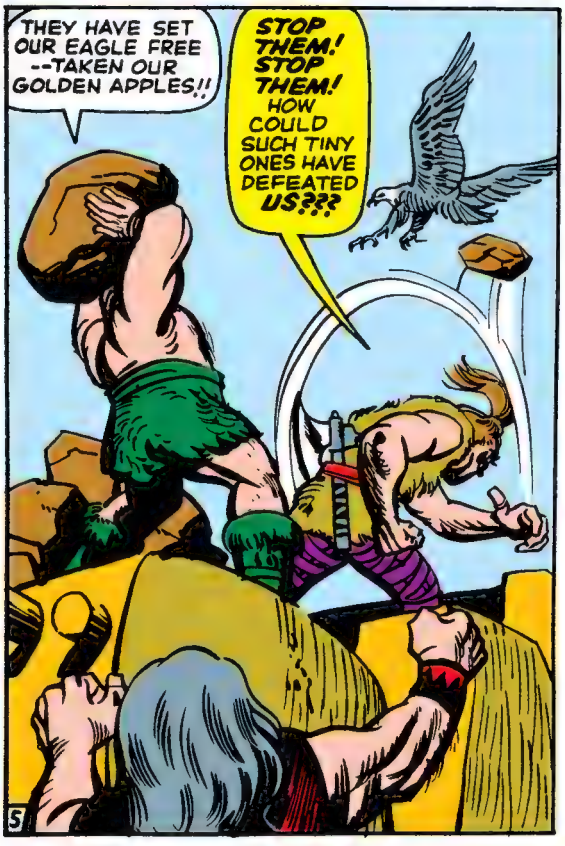

AND, WITHIN SECONDS, THICK CLOUDS OF BLINDING SMOKE FILL THE VAST CHAMBER!
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER TINY ONE HIDDEN AMONG US!
WAIT NO LONGER! KILL HIM! SLAY THEM ALL!


BUT, UNDER COVER OF THE DENSE SMOKE, THE VALIANT THUNDER GOD STRIKES OUT AGAIN, WITH TELLING EFFECT!
AHH! I KNEW THIS WOULD MAKE YOU RELEASE YOUR HOLD ON ME!

THAT WAS QUICK THINKING, LOKI! NOW QUICKLY-- WE MUST FIND THE GOLDEN APPLES AND FLEE!
BAH! I DID NOT DO IT TO SAVE YOU-- MERELY TO CREATE A DIVERSION FOR ME! FOR I KNOW WHERE THE APPLES ARE HIDDEN!


SEE? THEY ARE HERE, ATOP AGNAR, KING OF THE EAGLES ...THE ETERNAL PRISONER OF THE STORM GIANTS!
BUT I SHALL ESCAPE ON HIS BACK NOW, AND LEAVE YOU BEHIND TO SAVE YOURSELF FROM THE STORM GIANTS AS BEST YOU CAN!
NO! YOU SHALL NOT LEAVE WITHOUT ME!


THEN, AS THE STORM GIANTS COME LUMBERING UP TOWARDS THEM, THOR FREES THE KING OF EAGLES WITH ONE MIGHTY STROKE OF HIS SWORD, LEAPING UPON ITS HUGE CLAW AT THE SAME INSTANT!


THEY HAVE SET OUR EAGLE FREE --TAKEN OUR GOLDEN APPLES!!
STOP THEM! STOP THEM! HOW COULD SUCH TINY ONES HAVE DEFEATED US???
5

BUT NOTHING CAN STOP THE YOUNG GODLINGS! AND LATER, BACK IN ASGARD...
BAH! I HOPED THAT I WOULD RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THIS DEED, BUT ODIN IS TOO WISE TO BE DECEIVED!
AFTER EACH DEED OF VALOR, MY SON THOR, YOU ARE ABLE TO LIFT MY HAMMER A LITTLE HIGHER! UNTIL FINALLY, SOME DAY...
BUT THOR STILL HAS MANY STRANGE ADVENTURES AHEAD OF HIM... MANY POWERFUL FOES TO DEFEAT BEFORE ODIN'S HAMMER WILL BE TRULY HIS! MORE ABOUT THE BOYHOOD OF THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD IN OUR NEXT GREAT ISSUE!
THE END

Marvel Masterworks: The Mighty Thor Vol. 1 TPB collection cover
by Jack Kirby & Dean White

BIOGRAPHIES

STAN LEE

Stanley Lieber was born in New York City in 1922, the oldest son of Jewish immigrants from Romania. Upon an early graduation from high school, Stan was thrust in to the Depression-era economy. Meanwhile, Martin Goodman's Timely Comics needed staff, and Stan, Goodman's wife's cousin, joined as an assistant editor. His youthful aspiration was to one day write the "Great American Novel," so for his comic book work he adopted a pseudonym: Stan Lee. This way, he could reserve his real name for that novel-to-be.

He quickly graduated from simple text pieces to full-length stories, and before long his proficiency on the job earned him the position of managing editor while still a teenager. His tenure in the '50s saw the company's expansion (under the name Atlas) to include horror, crime, Western, war, satire and romance comics.

All this was a prelude to the Marvel Age of Comics, ushered in under the auspices of Stan Lee and a small stable of artists including the formidably talented Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. Responding to Martin Goodman's challenge to find a way to find a way to revitalize dwindling sales, Lee figured he would co-opt the super-hero revival at DC Comics and add his own magic to the mix: Instead of being perfect invulnerable champions, Marvel's heroes would be normal, fallible, imperfect people forced to cope with their newfound superhuman traits just as the average person might.

Lee's innovation sent shock waves throughout comics, and within a few years, Marvelmania was taking hold. Under his direction, the Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, Doctor Strange and the Incredible Hulk flourished in the shared universe they inhabited. Lee developed the idea that these larger-than-life heroes would meet each other in crossovers from title to title, thus broadening the story possibilities for eager fans.

In addition to bringing a new twist to the life of the super hero, Lee also brought the reader inside Marvel's "Batty Bullpen," creating a sense of camaraderie and special membership. His friendly and enthusiastic banter in letters pages, house ads and Bullpen Bulletins brought Marvel Comics to a level of familiarity with their fans that had kids and college students proudly professing themselves to be "True Believers."

At one time, Lee wrote virtually every comic that Marvel published during the '60s. But when he was promoted to publisher in 1971, his writing had to take a backseat, and by the mid-'70s, he semi-retired from scripting duties. Over the years, Lee has returned to write scripts for the occasional single issue or series, focusing on Marvel's ventures into television and movie development. His standing in the field was recognized with his induction into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 1994, and to this day, he remains Marvel Comics' single greatest ambassador to the world.

JACK KIRBY

Jacob Kurtzberg was born in 1917 and grew up in New York's gritty Lower East Side. It would be many years before he would adopt the name Jack Kirby, but his experiences in the neighborhood would help inform the work that later made him a legend. Unlike many of his rough-and-tumble peers, his imagination inspired him to look beyond the commonality of everyday life. He was inclined at an early age to pursue drawing, and he was also a guy who wanted to "get things done." This hard work ethic and ambition took him places most men of humble stations would never dream of going.

After early strip work helped get his name out to employers, a fateful meeting with artist Joe Simon connected the two at the hip and vaulted both of them into comics prominence. Together, they developed Captain America for Timely Comics, and Kirby immediately helped redefine what comics could be with his innovative page designs and proportion-exploding panels.

Soon, Simon and Kirby were working at National/DC, turning out hit kid-gang comics like *Newsboy Legion* and *Boy Commandos*, as well as super-hero fare like Sandman and Manhunter. He served honorably in World War II, with combat duties that took him through the European theater.

After the war, Simon and Kirby established the romance genre with *Young Romance*, produced titles including *Boy's Ranch*, *Black Magic* and *Fighting American*, and started their own imprint, Mainline. Kirby followed with *Challengers of the Unknown*, Green Arrow and the strip *Sky Masters of the Space Force*. By 1958, he began a prolific output at Atlas/Marvel that covered Western, war and monster genres. When it came time to launch the Marvel Age of Comics, Kirby brought his dynamic layouts, unparalleled action and unbridled creativity to the fore in books like *Fantastic Four*, *Avengers*, *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Thor*, leaving his unmistakable stamp on the characters.

Through it all, he earned the nickname "The King," and his way of doing things became so popular that it set the tone throughout the '60s; before they were entrusted with taking over completely, new artists were often assimilated on to books by working over Kirby's layouts. Kirby left Marvel for DC in 1970, this time handling scripting chores as well as art duties. His "Fourth World" books, along with *Kamandi*, *OMAC* and *The Demon*, were just a few of the highlights of his tenure at DC before returning to Marvel in the late '70s to lend his imagination to *The Eternals*, *Devil Dinosaur* and *Machine Man*. He also returned to the pages of *Captain America*, the character he had first made famous 35 years previously.

Kirby was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame's 1987 inaugural class and continued creating comics throughout the '90s until passing away in 1994, a creative giant for whom the word "legend" may be too small a title.

LARRY LIEBER

Larry Lieber's career as a versatile writer and artist marks him as one of the unheralded talents of the Marvel Age of Comics. Like his older brother Stan Lee, Lieber started his career in comics at an early age working in production on the magazine side of Martin Goodman's publishing business. By 1951, at age 19, Lieber's first comics artwork saw print in *All True Crime* #44. A stint in the Air Force put his comic book work on hold, but by late 1956 he returned on a number of romance stories. In the late '50s and early '60s Lieber became a member of the handful

of writers and artists contributing to the fantasy and big monster titles of the nascent Marvel line. Pitching in wherever needed, both scripting stories or penciling them—and sometimes both—he would also contribute to several of the Marvel Age's first forays into super-hero stories. In addition to scripts for Thor in *Journey Into Mystery*, the Human Torch in *Strange Tales* and Ant-Man in *Tales to Astonish*, Lieber also scripted the very first Iron Man story in *Tales of Suspense* #39. From the mid- to late-'60s, Lieber's duties were mostly centered around Westerns including *Kid Colt Outlaw* and *Rawhide Kid*, but he also did high-profile work on *Amazing Spider-Man Annuals* #4-5. In 1975, Lieber became editor of the short-lived Atlas/Seaboard comics line. Since 1986, Lieber has been a mainstay on the Spider-Man syndicated newspaper strip both writing and drawing it at times. In 2008, he was the recipient of the Bill Finger Award.

ROBERT BERNSTEIN

With a career stretching back to the late '40s, Robert Bernstein contributed stories to such titles as *Crime Does Not Pay*, *Psychoanalysis* and *Black Rider*, as well as work at DC Comics that redefined Aquaman in *Adventure Comics* and included a four-year run on the Superman family titles. By 1963, Bernstein was among the small cadre of writers contributing to the burgeoning Marvel Age of Comics. Better known to Marvel readers by his pseudonym "R. Berns," he scripted several Iron Man stories, charming readers with rogues like Gargantus, Jack Frost and Kala, Queen of the Underworld. In addition to his contribution to the earliest episodes in the life of Tony Stark, Bernstein also scripted early Thor stories in *Journey Into Mystery*, and a pair of Human Torch stories in *Strange Tales*. His work at Archie Comics on titles like *The Fly*, *The Jaguar* and *The Shadow* drew a close on his comics career. He passed away in 1988 at age 69.

JOE SINNOTT

Born in 1926 in Saugerties, New York, Joe Sinnott spun his childhood love of comic strips into a career as one of the defining artists of Marvel Comics' formative years. Attending New York's Cartoonists and Illustrators School on the G.I. Bill, Sinnott apprenticed under artist Tom Gill and broke into the field in 1951 at Atlas.

Though most widely known to Marvel fans as an unparalleled inker, Sinnott began his career as a complete pencil/ink artist on Westerns (*Arrowhead*), war features (*Battle*, *Marines In Action*), and especially horror/mystery comics (*Journey Into Mystery*, *Strange Tales*, *Menace*). As one of the handful of artists Stan Lee brought back after the 1957 Atlas implosion, Sinnott continued illustrating fantasy/mystery, war and romance stories as well as a short 1963 run on Thor in *Journey Into Mystery*. Meanwhile, he produced numerous romance stories for Charlton and work for Dell between 1959 and his 1965 return to Marvel.

Now back at Marvel and almost exclusively dedicated to inking, Sinnott's style quickly gained the acclaim of Marvel readers. Joining Stan Lee and Jack Kirby on *The Fanastic Four*, he ensured that the tag "The World's Greatest Comics Magazine" was no empty hype. From his debut on issue #44, he inked nearly every issue of *Fantastic Four* until #232, an amazing run of creative continuity.

Sinnott worked prolifically into the 1990s: *Avengers*, *Defenders*, *Thor*, *Rom* and *The Thing* were just a few of the many titles that received the benefit of his slick, refined inking. Now in retirement, Sinnott enjoys the adulation and respect of comics professionals and fans alike for his years of excellent and dedicated work behind the drawing boards at Marvel.

DON HECK

A native New Yorker and artist's artist, Don Heck began his comics career at Harvey Comics in 1949, but it was his dramatic covers for the Comic Media horror and war titles of the early '50s that got the attention of Stan Lee. Heck's future employer at Atlas/Marvel was engrossed by his stark images of battle-worn war heroes, creepy shrunken heads, gunshot victims, vampires and bristling cowboy action. In 1954 when Stan was searching through the list of free agent artists to hire for Atlas, Heck was extended an immediate offer.

Don attacked his Atlas assignments with aplomb, turning in page after page of work across all genres, including science fiction, jungle adventure, Westerns and romance. In fact, it was while toiling as a romance artist that Heck's reputation for stunning renderings of female beauty took hold.

Heck's most lasting contributions to the field came after the 1957 Atlas implosion. First as a member of the select cadre of artists Stan Lee brought back in 1958, and later as the artist who first defined Iron Man in the pages of *Tales of Suspense* #39, Heck's talents added a debonair flash to the Marvel line. He also earned renown for introducing the Black Widow and Hawkeye in *Tales of Suspense* #52 and #57 respectively and for his long tenure as artist on *The Avengers* with writers Stan Lee and Roy Thomas.

Heck worked throughout the '70s on titles including *The Flash*, *Justice League of America*, *Dial H for Hero* and Batgirl in *Detective Comics* and then intermittently through the early '90s for both Marvel and DC Comics. He passed away from lung cancer in 1995 at the age of 66.

AL HARTLEY

Al Hartley single-handedly defined the look of the Atlas Era's teen/model genre of books, including *Millie the Model*, *Patsy Walker* and the many spin-offs in which he collaborated with writer Stan Lee. A stark contrast to the cartoonishly rendered fare delivered at Archie Comics, Hartley's figure drawings were more realistic and recognizably played to teen girls' obsessions—boys and fashion. It wasn't just girl comics for Hartley, though, as he also drew jungle, Western and horror comics for Atlas during the '50s. Unfortunately, Hartley's talents didn't translate to super heroes, so his work in comics' most-famous genre presented something of a misrepresentation of his many accomplished contributions to Marvel.

Hartley began the latter segment of his comics career heavily influenced by his conversion to born-again Christianity. After a long stint drawing for Archie Comics, he served as the guiding force behind their Spire Christian Comics imprint, a line of titles (including Archie adaptations) that produced comics with a grounding in Christian faith for juveniles. He passed away in 2003 at the age of 82.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

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THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-5
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-12
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-8

THE MARVEL AGE

It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

The *Marvel Masterworks* series was created to give comic-book readers everywhere the chance to experience the greatest comics the world has known as they were originally presented.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

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GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
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ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

12¢
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
84
SEPT.
HOW CAN I DO WHAT I MUST, WITHOUT REVEALING MY MOST PRECIOUS SECRET??
FEATURING the MIGHTY THOR CAPTURED BY THE EXECUTIONER
READY! AIM! FIRE!
NO!! NO!!
IT'S HOPELESS! EVEN THOR CAN'T SAVE ME NOW!

12¢
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
85
OCT.
I CHALLENGE YOU TO MATCH YOUR POWERS AGAINST MINE, THOR!
NEVER BEFORE HAS THE MIGHTY THOR FACED A FOE AS DANGEROUS AS LOKI, THE GOD OF MISCHIEF!!
TAKE THESE OTHER JOURNEYS INTO MYSTERY IN THIS GREAT ISSUE...
"FILBERT'S FRIGHTFUL FUTURE!"
"OFF-LIMITS!"
IT IS LOKI, MY SWORN ENEMY! HE HAS FOUND ME AT LAST!

12¢
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
86
NOV.
STARRING the MIGHTY THOR!
HOW CAN I DEFEAT THE TOMORROW MAN, WHEN HE CAN FADE INTO A DIFFERENT YEAR BEFORE I CAN REACH HIM??

JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
92
MAY
I'VE DONE IT! I'VE STOLEN THOR'S HAMMER! NOW THE THUNDER GOD IS AT MY MERCY!
THE MIGHTY THOR CANNOT REACH HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER! IS THIS TO BE LOKI'S FINAL VICTORY??
I CANNOT REACH IT! WITHIN SECONDS ALL MY SUPER POWERS WILL BE GONE ...FOREVER!

JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
93
JUNE
EVEN THE MIGHTY THOR IS FORCED TO OBEY THE SINISTER COMMANDS OF THE AWESOME RADIO-ACTIVE-MAN!
THROW AWAY YOUR ACCURSED HAMMER, THOR! YOU HAVE NO CHOICE... YOU ARE MY SLAVE!
I--AM--YOUR SLAVE!
WITHOUT HIS HAMMER, THOR CANNOT STOP THE RADIO-ACTIVE MAN! WE'RE ALL DOOMED!

JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
95
AUG.
STARRING: MIGHTY THOR!
YOU HAVE FINALLY MET THE ONE ENEMY YOU CAN NEVER DEFEAT, THOR! YOU HAVE MET...
...A FAR MORE POWERFUL DUPLICATE OF ...YOURSELF!!

JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
97
OCT.
SUPER SPECIAL ISSUE!
LEE AND KIRBY COMBINE TALENTS TO BRING YOU MIGHTY THOR BATTLING THE AMAZING LAVA MAN!
Also-BEGINNING IN THIS ISSUE!
"TALES OF ASGARD"
FANTASY AND SCIENCE MEET AS YOU JOIN THE MIGHTY THOR!

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